



Men's rehabilitation home project axed after opposition

WOMEN'S REFUGE REPLACES HOSTEL

Report by Luke Bartlett

CONTROVERSIAL plans for a 65-bedroom hostel for men have been scrapped to make way for a new women and children's refuge.

Bosses at Expectations UK will now look to open the refuge in Bayer Street, Coseley, for pregnant women and mothers with dependent children.

It replaces the charity's original plans for a rehabilitation hostel for men over the age of 25, which faced heavy scrutiny from Coseley residents and West Midlands Police.

More than 100 people attended a public meeting in August to air their concerns about the original plans, particularly the type of resident it would cater for.

But in an email Expectations UK trustee Marc Blanchette revealed the organisation has taken concerns into account and altered the plans.

The trustee said changes were to be made to the original proposal, as outlined in the email to Coseley ward councillors, residents and West Midlands Police, who had objected.

Consultation

Mr Blanchette said: "As a result of a community consultation and opposition from other interested parties, Expectations management and trustees has respectfully taken into consideration the objections raised and reviewed our initial plans for the use of the premises, and amended our proposal.

"New Bridge House will now provide specialist supported accommodation for homeless families. We will no longer be proposing accommodating men.

"We will provide accommodation to pregnant women and mothers with dependant children up to six months or until they can source suitable alternative accommodation. The project will be staffed 24/7 by experienced qualified staff who will meet the needs of residents through regular structured support sessions.

"All visitors will be monitored whilst on site and a curfew will be in place for residents."

Expectations UK was contacted for a comment but the charity did not respond.

CELEBRATING HARVEST FESTIVAL AT MUSEUM



Chapel Steward Alan Hallman and Margaret Millington along with fellow friends of the museum as they hold a traditional harvest festival

FRESHLY-PICKED fruit and vegetables filled a 19th century chapel for a traditional Harvest Festival at the Black Country Living Museum.

Fruit biscuits, loaves of bread, jams, preserves and tarts were baked to perfection for the weekend festivities at the Dudley historical attraction.

Grant Bird, the museums's communications and marketing manager, said: "The

event was very well attended over the weekend, despite the weather.

"We had a service in our chapel. We had a nice loaf of Harvest bread that was baked and on the Sunday people gave thanks.

"Our demonstrators were cooking a variety of Black Country recipes that people would have made."

Visitors uncovered the history of traditional harvest time celebrations in the region.

Demonstrators stepped into their roles, describing wartime rationing and the efforts to keep families across the region fed.

Mr Bird said many more events were planned at the Tipton Road museum, including Halloween events before the museum gears up for Christmas festivities.

He added: "We try and take people back in time and create that sense that they are literally stepping back into the past."

PLANNING

New location may be found for travellers

A **CONTROVERSIAL** travellers' transit site recently given the green light by Dudley Council for Budden Road in Coseley could be located elsewhere in the borough.

The site, earmarked for disused council land in Coseley, was approved under the former Conservative leadership but the new Labour administration has put the project on hold due to 'concerns raised' about the planning process. Councillor Kieran Casey, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "These plans have been put on hold and the council wants to be make sure we have looked at all the sites available."

TECHNOLOGY

Pods part of £20m transport scheme

KINGSWINFORD'S Westfield Technology has welcomed news that the West Midlands is to receive £20 million to create the first Future Mobility Area.

It will see major investment in new modes of transport, services and technologies. The scheme, which will involve autonomous pods built by Westfield in Kingswinford, was announced at the Conservative party's conference in Birmingham.

POLITICS

Two more quit UKIP over new leader

THE exodus from UKIP in Dudley has continued with two more resignations. Following West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge's decision to join the Libertarian Party, ex-councillor Paul Brothwood and borough UKIP chairman Martin Day have also quit. All three expressed concern at UKIP's direction under leader Gerard Batten.

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INSIDE

MAKING OF A FOOTBALL HERO



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Dudley

CHRONICLE

Racing legend boosts air ambulance



Jump legend Sir AP McCoy

GUESTS can enjoy an evening with leading National Hunt jockey Sir AP McCoy for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.

The exclusive evening, which includes a three-course meal, takes place on November 23 at The Belfry.

McCoy dominated the jump racing world for more than two decades, ending his phenomenal career as Champion Jockey for the 20th consecutive year, and was awarded both the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year in 2010 as well as a Lifetime Achievement Award three years ago.

He rode Don't Push It to victory in the 2011 Grand National.

The evening will give guests a rare and personal insight into McCoy's incredible career as well as raise vital funds for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, which has to airlift a horse rider every four days.

Donations

Each Midlands Air Ambulance Charity air ambulance mission costs £2,500, which is entirely funded through charitable donations.

McCoy, said: "Midlands Air Ambulance Charity does a fantastic job saving lives on a daily basis. The racing community greatly values the work of the air ambulance, due to the dangers involved with the sport, which is why I'm delighted to support Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and the important work they do."

Tickets for the evening are available from The Ticket Factory, just search 'AP McCoy'. For more information and how to help fund a mission, contact Midlands Air Ambulance Charity on 0800 8 40 20 40, or visit www.midland-sairambulance.com website.

ARMED robbers who raided two convenience stores in seven days have each been jailed for three years and nine months.

Drugged up robbers in raid on their local shop

Brett Spittle and Richard Whittaker struck at the One Stop Store in Commons, Pensnett, where they had been customers, on August 4. The manager had seen the pair in the shop earlier and recognised them despite having their faces covered.

Spittle, 34, and 35-year-old Whittaker, armed respectively with a crowbar and garden trowel, threatened staff and jumped over the counter. The former took the tray out of the till and the latter grabbed tobacco products, said Mr Stuart Clarkson, prosecuting.

The pair fled with £120 cash before staging a similar robbery at the Tesco Express in Pensnett High Street on August 11. They were armed with the same, or similar, weapons and took £650 from the till and more tobacco.

The two were on bail at the time after being caught on CCTV using a stolen credit card in three shops within 20 minutes. The card had been stolen when Whittaker snatched the handbag from the woman in Bromley Lane, Kingswinford, on April 16.

Both defendants, who admitted charges of robbery and fraud, had been long term drug addicts and were under the influence of drugs when the robberies took place.

Spittle, of Queen Street, Pensnett, had previous convictions involving 113 offences. Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said: "His life is aimless. No actual violence was inflicted on any of the staff."

Miss Samantha Powis, said Whittaker, of Tiled House Lane, Pensnett, had been addicted to drugs since the age of 11. He was now trying to kick the habit.

Scrapping PCC 'could cost more'

A PLANNED merger of the Police and Crime Commissioner's office with the mayoralty could end up costing more money than it saves, claims the current commissioner.

This year plans were revealed to scrap the office of the PCC, transferring its powers to the West Midlands Mayor.

The proposals were first put forward by the Government as part of the West Midlands' second devolution deal, and were due to be in place in time for the 2020 mayoral elections.

But David Jamieson, who has held the PCC role since 2014 and is set to retire in 2020, has warned the proposed merger could prove costly for taxpayers as he believes the mayor would choose a deputy to look after policing, creating a new role.

Police 'too busy' to collect bloody sword

A DISABLED pensioner called police after finding a blood-stained sword in the garden of his Dudley home but says they were too busy to collect the deadly weapon.

Widower Stuart Ingram, 85, called 999 after being alarmed at finding the 2ft blade hidden under a hedge in his front garden. But the great-grandfather claims the police call handler put the phone down on him.

The pensioner said he was shocked by the response and criticised West Midlands Police, who he says told him to hand the sword in himself. He thought the find should have been taken more seriously. West Midlands Police has launched several campaigns to get weapons off the streets.

The force has apologised to Mr Ingram and said it was unable to send officers on the day due to 'high demand'.

Shocked

The retired foundry boss said: "I was shocked. I picked it up carefully by the blade so as not to get my fingerprints on the handle. I could see blood caked on the bladed edge and my first thought was it could have been used to stab someone."

"I thought this might help solve a crime or at least take a dangerous weapon out of circulation, so I dialled 999 and asked to speak to police. This chap came on the phone. I don't know if he was a policeman."

"I said 'my problem is I've just found a 2ft knife in my hedge. Can you get a policeman to come pick it up?' He said 'no, we can't do that, we are far too busy'. I was just about to tell him my address when he just put the phone down."

West Midlands Police apologised for Mr Ingram's experience and said they would collect the weapon, adding: "Due to the high call demand we were unable to allocate police officers to attend and collect the weapon on the day. We accept that the caller's experience was unacceptable."

Thieves target animal sanctuary again



Owner Neil Swan in the cafe at Brockwood Animal Sanctuary which has been broken into for the third time

AN animal sanctuary has been left with £3,000 in damages after thieves targeted it for the third time this year.

Bosses from Brockwood Animal Sanctuary, in Sedgley, say crooks smashed their way into the site's cafe to steal food, cutlery and animal feed baskets.

Neil Swann, sanctuary director, said his small and dedicated team are determined to keep business running as usual and plans have now been put in place to beef up security.

Mr Swann said: "It was a shock, and it is demoralising for the staff and volunteers. Everyone is putting

so much effort in to try and put this place back to how it used to be. It is quite a kick in the teeth. This is the third time within a year."

Mr Swann said the team will now look at improving security at the not-for-profit sanctuary which is visited by around 20,000 animal lovers each year.

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Protection order to halt nature area bike menace

AN order to protect Dudley's nature reserves from being ruined has been praised by an MP.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood voiced his support for the enacting of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), which came into force last Saturday.

Mr Wood organised a petition calling on the council to take out a PSPO after complaints from residents living near Fens Pool Nature Reserve about anti-social behaviour, including off-road bikers ripping up the green area.

More than 2,000 signed the Tory MP's petition earlier this year, which Mr Wood presented to the House of Commons in February.

Residents in Brockmoor and Pensnett have been among those hardest hit by the illegal bike menace.

The aim of the PSPO is to grant the police increased powers to seize these bikes and take further action to stop the anti-social behaviour.

Mr Wood said: "It has been a long process, but I am very pleased that the necessary framework is in place.

"These illegal bikes have been a long-standing nuisance and danger to some of my constituents for too long now, which is why I am very pleased that Dudley Council and the West Midlands Police have listened to my calls for action to be taken, so that local people can once again live in peace."

Travellers back at Netherton site

TRAVELLERS have returned to Netherton after setting up camp on open land.

About 12 caravans were spotted on the site off Lister Road after arriving on Friday.

It comes after a camp was moved from the same spot in August after Dudley Council secured an injunction.

Councillor Elaine Taylor, who represents the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrew's Ward, said: "We have had travellers all through the summer, especially in my ward, because we have open space that can be accessed easily."

Plans to convert council-owned land into a travellers' transit site in Buden Road received permission in May but is currently being reviewed.

Homes for garages

SIX family homes could be built on the site of former residential garages in Dudley.

Dudley Council has submitted an application to demolish the garages in Uplands Road.

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Merry Hill owner faces possible takeover

Intu's Merry Hill shopping centre

THE shopping centre group that owns Merry Hill is facing another possible takeover bid just months after a previous £3.4 billion merger deal collapsed.

A consortium including the Peel Group is considering a potential cash offer for Intu, the owner of 18 centres across the UK including Merry Hill, the Trafford and Arndale Centres in Manchester and Metrocentre in Gateshead.

The executive chairman of the Peel Group is its billionaire owner, John Whittaker, who is also deputy chair-

man at Intu. His Peel Group already owns around 26 per cent of Intu's shares. News of the possible bid sent Intu's shares soaring last week, up 30 per cent on Friday.

Intu was the subject of a takeover bid by rival Hammerson earlier this year in a deal set to create Britain's biggest property company, with £21bn worth of assets across Europe.

The £3.4bn deal was officially called off in late April after Hammerson - owner of Birmingham's Bullring and Grand Central - withdrew a recommendation for shareholders to vote

through the acquisition. At the same time Intu's share price has slumped by 40 per cent this year, making it a tempting takeover proposition.

In an announcement after the close of trading on Thursday, Peel Group confirmed it had formed a consortium along with Saudi conglomerate Olayan Group and Canadian asset management company Brookfield. A statement said: "The consortium's consideration of the possible offer is at a preliminary and exploratory stage."

The consortium has until November 1 to make a firm offer.

Mother's plea after fan is kicked unconscious

A 15-year-old boy was knocked unconscious when he was attacked by a gang of yobs as he walked home from a Black Country football match.

Yeltz fan Ben Neale was kicked in the head during the attack and his mother is now appealing for any information to help police track down those responsible.

Ben was on his way to catch the bus back to Halesowen after the Stourbridge versus Halesowen Town game on August 28 when he and his friends were confronted in a Stourbridge underpass.

The family believe Ben was attacked by up to 20 thugs and they are now appealing for information to catch the yobs who beat him up.

His mother, Carol Parsons, said: "A group of thugs went for Ben's friends. They ran off but managed to get hold of Ben and they knocked him unconscious with kicks and punches.

"It's disgusting, there's no way you think this would happen to your son.

"The problem is there are no cameras down there and we need information on what happened.

Carried

"The only thing he remembers after the attack began was being carried to the bus station and being put on a bus by someone he knew from school. If this boy hadn't have got him home to me I don't know what would have happened.

"This was the second Halesowen game Ben had been to and now he never wants to go back. I won't let him go either."

The Windsor High School student, who is the fifth youngest of six children, was taken to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley where he was treated for his injuries.

Ben's mother was also critical of the police, saying: "The police haven't come out once to see us, it's all been over the phone and we still haven't got any where.

"The police have told me now that they have some footage but they need to figure out what street it is on. I've been told to look around Stourbridge and see if I can figure out what street it is, but surely that's the police's job?"

A spokesman for West Midlands Police said: "The investigation is on-going and we are currently following up leads."

Halesowen Town fan Ben Neale, aged 15, and his mother Carol Parsons, have appealed for information

500 more officers needed to tackle crime

WEST Midlands Police needs 500 extra officers as part of an £85 million package required to tackle the region's crimewave, says Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson.

He has asked the Government for a funding boost of £42.2m a year to bolster the ranks, detec-

tives and neighbourhood teams a priority. In a joint letter to Home Secretary Sajid Javid, Mr Jamieson and Labour MP Liam Byrne said they want to see the force's number of officers back to at least 7,000 by 2020 - a figure which is still well below 2010 levels.

The force currently has around 6,500 officers - around 2,000 less than it did eight years ago - while violent crime has increased by 60 per cent over the last three years. Labour PCC Mr Jamieson said: "West Midlands Police has been hit harder than almost any other force in the country."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police arrested teen over attack

A TEENAGE boy has been arrested following an attack on a man aged in his 60s in Dudley town centre.

Eric Adams was repeatedly punched in the face as he sat on a bench in Market Place, Dudley. He was left with a fractured eye socket following the vicious attack.

Police arrested a 15-year-old boy following an appeal over the attack, which took place on September 25. He was subsequently released as investigations continue.

A Police spokesman said: "We arrested a 15-year-old boy from Dudley on suspicion of assault. He has been released pending further inquiries."

Advocacy group seeks volunteers

A BLACK Country charity which supports vulnerable adults has held an induction for new volunteers.

Dudley Advocacy, based in Netherton, is calling for additional helpers to support people with learning disabilities and the issues they face.

Volunteer advocates support people on a one-to-one basis.

A spokesman for Dudley Advocacy said: "We rely heavily on volunteer advocates to help us support people with learning disabilities. Volunteers make a massive difference."

Call the charity on (01384) 456877.

Asda earns prize at centre awards

ASDA won retailer of the year award in a Black Country shopping centre's third annual awards. TV personality Rylan Clark-Neal was the host for the Intu Merry Hill prize-giving ceremony at The Copthorne Hotel with more than 300 guests attending.

The new Next outlet won the store development of the year and Nando's was awarded food and drink retailer. Coventry Building Society received the community engagement award.

Centre director Dan Murphy said: "The best judges are our shoppers, and thousands of them voted."

New beer to grapple with at charity show

A BEER to grapple with will be on sale at a charity wrestling show in Halesowen next Friday.

Organisers Wrestling For are teaming up with Upper Gornal brewery Fownes Brewing Company to create a beer for the show on October 19 at Benjamins in Birmingham Street.

Wrestling For's second annual charity show is in aid of the Campaign Against Living Miserably, a men's mental health charity.

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Minister's praise for care home staff flu jabs

A GOVERNMENT minister has hailed a collaborative scheme which led to 80 per cent fewer flu outbreaks in Dudley borough care homes last winter.

Dudley Council, in conjunction with Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, ensured nearly 1,500 frontline staff in care and residential homes received the flu jab.

The results have been hailed by Caroline Dinenege, Minister for Care, who has held the scheme up as a shining example of the difference that can be made when organisations work together.

It saw 1,462 frontline staff across Dudley receive the vaccination, with 1,183 directly through the scheme and 279 who were eligible to get it from their GP or pharmacy. That made up nearly three quarters of the total workforce.

The minister said the scheme would feature in Quality Matters, a free online resource showcasing good practice in collaborative working in the field.

The council has offered free flu jabs to all its staff this year during the first two weeks of October.

Councillor Cathryn Bayton, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "Flu is a nasty illness which can lead to death – the risk of this is amplified in care homes, where elderly people are less able to fight it off."

MEP Bill quits UKIP in 'despair'

DUDLEY-BASED West Midlands Euro MP Bill Etheridge has quit UKIP, saying he can no longer serve under leader Gerard Batten.

The former Sedgley councillor says he decided to bring an end to his seven years with the party, citing his 'despair' over 'extreme nationalist and reactionary views'.

But he is not leaving politics, having joined the Libertarian Party and being appointed its deputy chairman.

In his resignation letter, Mr Etheridge said the UKIP leader had 'changed the party beyond all recognition'.

He added: "The party is now seen by large swathes of the British public as a vehicle for hate towards Muslims and the gay community."

Poetry workshop

A FREE poetry workshop to create verse inspired by the First World War is being held at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre in Tipton Road on Saturday at 2pm, featuring poet Jon Seagrave. Call (01384) 812770.

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Tim's royally good photo on shortlist



Prince William at Mary Stevens Park

EXPRESS & Star chief photographer Tim Thursfield's shot of The Duke of Cambridge has been shortlisted for judging in a national competition to find the best royal shots.

An online public vote was held over a week to find the best of 48 showcased photographs from national and local newspapers, agencies and freelance photographers with thousands of people taking part.

Now Tim's picture of the Duke meeting crowds at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge has been voted to go through to the finals of the third

News Media Association Royal Rota Photography Competition.

The judging panel will now preside over the remaining images.

There are five categories: National Newspaper Rota Photo of the Year; Regional/Local Newspaper Rota Photo of the Year; Picture Agency Rota Photo of the Year; Overall Rota Photo of the Year; and a special category – Rota photographs of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle together.

Tim's picture is up in the Regional/Local Newspaper Rota Photo of the Year category.

The E&S shot was taken when the Duke visited Stourbridge to unveil a statue of Major Frank Foley sitting on a park bench.

Thousands of people packed into Mary Stevens Park for the occasion to honour the man dubbed 'The British Schindler' because he helped save up to 10,000 Jews from the Nazi concentration camps.

The Royal Rota photography competition was launched by the NMA to promote the outstanding work of photographers in the UK news media.

Thief in wrecking spree at station to steal cash

A MAN caused more than £8,000 damage at Stourbridge Junction railway station to steal a total of just £221 in cash, a judge heard.

Mark Hardy went on wrecking sprees during a series of late-night visits to the station, Mr Phillip Beardwell, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The spate of offending included a burglary and two thefts over 13 days in September last year – with most of the attacks, which mostly took place after midnight, being caught on CCTV cameras.

The 38-year-old caused £1,205 worth of damage to the photo booth while removing the cash box, which held £81. A few days later he smashed a chocolate vending machine to steal its cash box and committed a similar crime four days later.

The total repair bill left by those two offences was £7,000, while he got away with £140 cash, the court heard.

Fingerprints

Hardy, who had 41 previous convictions involving 106 offences, left the cash boxes at the scene after taking the money. His fingerprints were found on them.

The offences were not included when similar crimes committed around the same time saw him receiving a two-year sentence on December 6.

He was given an early release in June this year and had been engaging well with the Probation Service, said Mr David Swinnerton, defending.

Hardy, of Station Road, Stechford, admitted the two thefts and a burglary and was given a 12-month community order with rehabilitation courses.

Judge Simon Ward said: "This was part of a series of similar offences committed around the same time for which you received a prison sentence, which has been served and you are now on the road to rehabilitation.

"It would not be in the interests of justice to send you back to prison. I hope this is a watershed moment for you," the judge added.

Don't get the jitters from these bugs



Three-year-old Charlie Gleave, from Brierley Hill, admires a giant beetle at Merry Hill shopping centre

VISITORS to the Merry Hill shopping centre will find themselves face to face with giant bugs this month.

Big Bugs on Tour has come to intu Merry Hill in an attempt to reconnect people with nature. The initiative is backed by TV naturalist Chris Packham and features

12 supersized, indigenous bugs. These include the honeybee, ladybird, hornet, swallowtail butterfly and the nut weevil.

The bugs will be on display at Merry Hill until the end of October, before going on tour to other intu shopping centres nationwide.

Robert Pickersgill, marketing

manager at intu Merry Hill, said: "We know that a closer connection to nature makes people happier and Big Bugs on Tour is an opportunity to help educate adults and children on the importance of the bugs in their gardens – and put a smile on their faces."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Luxury store to open at Merry Hill

MIKE Ashley's retail empire is set for a fresh investment in the Black Country – opening one of its luxury brand stores at the intu Merry Hill shopping centre.

Just days after Mr Ashley's House of Fraser company confirmed it would be keeping Wolverhampton's Beatties department store, it was revealed that the Sport Direct tycoon's top drawer Flannels chain is set to open its first store at the Brierley Hill mall.

It will open in an 11,000 sq ft unit in December. Flannels sells brands including Gucci and Jimmy Choo, and already has a store at Birmingham's Burlington Arcade.

Whisky society hold first meeting

THE Black Country Whisky Society has held its first meeting.

Martin Gallagher, aged 32, a nurse practitioner at Russells Hall Hospital, said they were hoping to build up membership following the initial meeting last week in the Old Swan Inn (Ma Pardoes), Netherton.

They plan to try four to six different whiskies each month and get guest speakers from distilleries.

Further meetings will be held on the first Friday of each month at the Halesowen Road pub from 7pm with the next held on November 2.

Help is needed at winter ales fest'

ORGANISERS of the annual Dudley Winter Ales Fair are hoping for volunteers to help with staging this year's event.

It will be running in Dudley Town hall from November 29 to December 1 with more than 70 real ales and craft beers featured.

The Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale is holding a planning meeting on November 5 in The Park Inn, George Street, Woodsetton, at 8pm.

Last year's winter ales fair raised about £1,500 for charity.

Christmas gift fair to be held at Himley Hall

A TWO-DAY Christmas gifts fair is being held at Himley Hall next month.

The weekend event will run from 10.30am to 5pm on November 17 and 18 at the Dudley Council-owned stately home.

There will be more than 50 exhibitors from all over the UK with stalls in the hall and in a heated pavilion.

Admission for adults is £2, pensioners £1.50 and entrance will be free for children aged under-16.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Real life? Send them to join the destitute

AS clichés go, it ticks most of the boxes. Millionaire's son from Fulham goes to live in council house with single mother on benefits.

The television series Rich Kids Go Skint is back, and this time obscenely rich Patrick Cathcart spends three days living with unemployed Katrina in Salford. He is quick to reveal he has never heard of Salford, and describes his surroundings in the way you might expect a war correspondent to portray the sights on the battlefield.

It's a great hoot: Patrick has a 10 grand Rolex, Katrina has a £3 watch. Katrina spends £30 a week on food, to which Patrick observes 'that's a carpaccio starter'. We all know the message, and it's hardly subtle: a nation divided between the haves and have-nots; the ridiculously privileged and those leading a hand-to-mouth existence.

But look at this from another angle. Patrick's watch may be more expensive than Katrina's, but they both tell the time. Patrick might blow a fortune in fancy restaurants while Katrina lives off chicken kiev, but they both have food.

If they really wanted to highlight the gap between the rich and the poor, maybe the producers should have been a bit braver. Such as sending Katrina to spend three days with the destitute in one of the world's poorest countries. Or maybe living with those affected by the Indonesian earthquake. It probably wouldn't be as much fun as laughing at rich toffs like Patrick, and maybe it wouldn't give us that feelgood sense of indignation and entitlement. But a few days swatting off mosquitoes at the standpipe, or waiting for the aid truck to deliver food rations would perhaps make people realise that Britain really isn't so bad after all.

□□□

STUDENTS at Manchester University have been asked to refrain from clapping at students' union meetings, and rather to give a 'jazz hands' gesture instead.

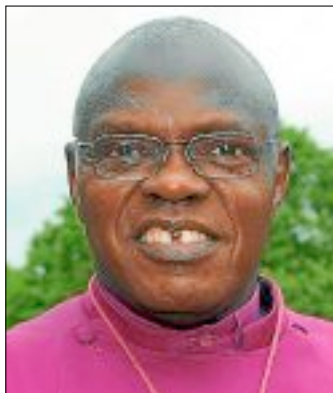
Apparently, it stems from concern that some of the sensitive things feel anxious when they hear applause, and it causes them distress. Anxious at the sound of applause? These guys want to get themselves down Villa Park, they'd love it.

That said, I remember once feeling slightly anxious after a cup defeat when I was shoulder-charged out the way by a man who wanted to give jazz hands to then-manager Paul Lambert. At least I think it was jazz hands.

□□□

TRULY offal news in Devon, where a lorry driver shed his load of two tons of animal intestines.

Outrage over information stall for new students



Maybe the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu can give a plausible explanation



Ben Elton masterpiece brings poignant TV moments that will be remembered



The immaculately coiffed Katya Adler doesn't look like your usual TV hack

Sex talk: We know where this can lead

THERE was outrage at the University of Brighton where something called The Sex Workers' Outreach Project set up a stall at an event for new students, offering information and condoms. A university spokesman insists: "We would like to make it clear that the university does not promote sex work as an option to students." If they did, it would presumably lead to a B.Ed.

IT is almost 30 years since writers Ben Elton and Richard Curtis turned the final moments of Blackadder Goes Forth (BBC1) from cynical comedy to pure pathos. Unexpectedly, the four main characters went over the top from their trench, to be wiped out by machine-gun fire. The screen turned into a field of Flanders poppies. That moment left millions of viewers astonished and deeply moved. Comedy is not supposed to behave like this. And then this week on Upstart Crow (BBC2) Ben Elton did it again. The clever silliness of William Shakespeare's private life suddenly turned to real history. Will (David Mitchell) arrives home in August 1596 to find his beloved only son, 11-year-old Hamnet, has died of the plague. The laughter stops. As long as people talk about television, those few poignant moments will be remembered. A total masterpiece.

COUNTRYFILE (BBC1) introduced us to an 11-year-old boy dying of a form of premature Alzheimer's disease. He is already losing memories and will soon go blind and be fed through a tube. On the day this nightmare was revealed, it was announced that the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, will retire in June 2020. This gives his successor two years to dream up a plausible explanation of why a loving God allows little children to suffer like this.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



AN Italian scientist, Professor Alessandro Strumia, has been suspended by the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, after he gave a presentation using a slide which said: "Physics was invented and built by men". These words have been denounced as "highly offensive". We are told that the scientific community is "in shock." Outrage is clearly the order of the day. And yet I have a suspicion that, if a female scientist had declared "Physics was invented and built by women," she would have been praised for her brave, forthright and revolutionary thinking and given a standing ovation. We live in strange times.

LAMBETH Council stands accused of racism towards some employees. In response, the council says it is starting "diversity awareness and unconscious bias training." I wonder what happens if you fall asleep during the unconscious bias lesson.

UNLESS you have experienced an earthquake (and I haven't) you can't begin to understand the terror it creates. Even if you escape unharmed you can be traumatised for life by so-called infrasound, the low-frequency sounds generated by a tremor which are perfectly pitched to cause feelings of awe, fear and panic in humans. In the case of the Indonesian tsunami and earthquake, Mother Nature unleashed another of her horrors - liquefaction. This is the combination of soil type and rapid vibration that

turns solid ground into liquid beneath your feet. Buildings, vehicles, roads and people simply sink into the earth. All your worst nightmares come true at the same moment and no TV or radio dispatch can capture what the local people have suffered. As the appeals for cash begin, give what you wish but give thanks you don't live in an earthquake zone.

SOON after the Boxing Day Tsunami of 2004 I was sent to a small island in the Maldives which for a few terrible moments had vanished under the ocean. Although the villagers could explain what they had seen, they could barely believe it themselves. A woman showed me the tide mark left by the tsunami in the room where she had been sitting. The water came in, rose almost to the ceiling and then sank away in a few seconds. When the tsunami had passed, three children of the village were drowned, some houses were wrecked and the village wells, used for hundreds of years, were ruined by salt water. There was nothing we hacks could do except tell the world what had happened. But I do recall a sense of pride at seeing people rehomed in sturdy white tents bearing the UN logo. Those tents seemed to say that, even on this tiny speck of land in the middle of nowhere, the world cared.

SHE really is in a class of her own. Katya Adler doesn't look like your usual TV hack. She has the bearing of a diplomat and appears on our screens immaculately coiffed and made-up, as though she's just sitting in front of the camera before heading off to an embassy party. I can never see Katya without imagining her graciously picking one chocolate from a vast tray of Ferrero Rocher. Ambassador, you're really spoiling us.

TALKING POINT



Questions – but I just don't get an answer

WE live in an era of reliable, instant communication. Or do we? Despite being able to exchange news, views and ideas in a matter of seconds, there are still pockets of resistance to the idea of actually responding to that beep or vibration which signals that someone is trying to get in touch.

A perfect example was an inquiry I made to a music venue recently regarding the time the act was on stage.

The timing was important as the plan was to watch the band either before or after a meal at a nearby restaurant.

So, thinking that three days would give the venue enough time to reply, I went to their website and in the box inviting inquiries and/or comments asked what time the entertainment began.

Then I waited, and waited and waited. Still no reply. On the morning of the concert, I went back to the website to get a phone number. Not wishing to be stung for the cost of a call or text to a mobile number, I opted for the landline.

It rang out for some considerable time before a recorded message cut in and said my call couldn't be connected and, no, I could not leave a message.

Surely a text to the mobile number would bring a response? No way.

There was only one thing for it. Turn up at the venue, in person, and take pot luck.

It turned out the band was starting two hours after the advertised time but the website had not been updated. Furthermore, no-one had been available to monitor any messages or answer the phone.

In this case, everything turned out OK but so often there is no urgency in actually making contact, with some organisations seemingly happy to ignore the issue.

Having endured a problem late at night on a multi-storey car park, I emailed the operator and explained in detail how distressing the episode was. A few days later, I got a reply saying my complaint was being investigated. That was in July. I still haven't heard anything.

Some organisations are prompt in replying, even if they merely send out an acknowledgment that it has been received, although the automated 'Do not reply to this email' messages are infuriating.

On the whole though, the policy seems to keep everyone in the dark and hope they give up trying, unless to ignore an email or call would cost money or lead to adverse publicity.

My message to these people is, the technology is there to make our lives easier, so don't be surprised if and when you suffer a backlash. We're trying to communicate. Why aren't you?

STEVE PARLETT

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The company, which is based in Halesowen, can also assist with repairs and maintenance problems with your current windows, doors and conservatories regardless of who originally fitted them. These are people who definitely know what they're doing!

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heating bill in the first year alone.

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YouTube star's goodbye at end of cancer battle

A YOUTUBE star from Dudley who documented his battle with a rare form of cancer in daily blogs has died.

Dan Thomas had been sharing the emotional ups and downs of his cancer journey to more than 150,000 subscribers.

The news was broken by his family – his parents, two brothers and wife Becca – on the channel where he posted his videos under the name of PeeWeeToms.

The 32-year-old's positive attitude touched many, including Russian cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev, who sent him a message from the International Space Station.

The family thanked his audience for their support and announced that they would be posting videos on the channel in the future – including some 'surprises' Dan prepared in advance.

Supportive

His brother, professional drummer Matt Thomas, said: "Honestly, we really want to thank you, our entire family. You've been so supportive of Dan's journey. We know how much it's helped. Words can't express how we all feel right now but I hope that we can continue our journey with you."

Dan was diagnosed in 2015. Originally told he had shingles, he was eventually given a diagnosis of sarcomatoid carcinoma. Medics told him there were only 16 recorded cases.

More than 30 tumours were removed from all around his body. He chronicled his treatments, hopes and dreams but in a post in April, captioned 'Cancer has won, game over' he revealed the disease had spread too far for further surgery. It received more than two million views.



The positive attitude of Dudley's Dan Thomas as he battled cancer inspired many

Forced to give up his job through illness, he started a GoFundMe page to raise money partly for treatment and for travel, so he could visit other cancer patients and give them encouragement. He raised more than £10,000 before his terminal diagnosis. He continued his blogs with his videos getting views in the hundreds of thousands.

He married his partner Becca Thomas weeks before he died.

Over the past two weeks, the software developer told viewers he had become too sick for chemotherapy and was in a hospice.

In his final vlog he said: "There's things I want to do that I'll never be able to do."

In his last video before he died, he said: 'See you later, ta-ta, bye bye'.

His funeral was held Weston-Super-Mare on October 8.

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Virtual crime scene tool to beat the burglars

POLICE have launched a virtual reality challenge aimed at providing home security tips to defy burglars.

The online walkthrough has been put together by West Midlands Police and former criminal Michael Fraser.

Users take on the role of a detective called to the scene of a fictional burglary at 27 Station Road.

Once at the property they can explore and uncover clues about how the thief broke in and what they could have done better to keep him out – such as locking interlocking doors and hiding valuables out of sight.

Michael, who also appeared on the BBC's Beat The Burglar series, was recruited to help so the challenge could be as realistic as possible.

Advantage

He said: "27 Station Road is West Midlands Police's first ever interactive crime scene and it could quite easily be your home. Burglars are opportunistic thieves, they're looking for a weakness in your home security and they will take advantage."

The immersive experience is filmed in 360 degrees and can be viewed on virtual reality devices and the police's website. The interactive VR house has been launched as the force anticipates a seasonal rise in burglary driven by the return of winter and darker nights.

The force's Design Out Crime manager, Mark Silvester, said: "27 Station Road brings crime prevention advice to life. Using lighting, tested locks, certified windows and doors and installing a burglar alarm are all methods which, when used in combination, will help deter burglars."

Visit west-midlands.police.uk/27stationroad



Pc David Manning with reformed burglar Michael Fraser

Factory demolition passed

A BUILDING that was part of the oldest chainmakers in the Black Country is to be bulldozed after plans for demolition were given the green light.

The old Bradney Chains site on Quarry Road, Dudley Wood, will be flattened under plans to put homes on. The firm was snapped up by William Hackett Chains in 2013.

The company has been a fixture of the Black Country's industrial heritage for decades but the building will now finally be pulled down. Initial

plans for 24 homes on the historic site, lodged by Harker Homes, have already been approved by councillors.

Now an application to demolish the factory has also been passed, finally paving the way for building to start. Planners at Dudley Council raised no objection to the request for demolition.

Concerns had been raised among local residents about the potential impact on wildlife but ward councillor Chris Barnett said the developer had worked to address their concerns.

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In a time of continued austerity, hundreds of millions of pounds are being spent on converting some lengths of main line railway and bus routes into tram lines.

Other bus routes are being turned into Sprint diesel bus routes with limited stops that mean less flamboyant buses will still have to be provided for the stops that the Sprint misses out.

Both Metro trams and Sprint, 'Metro's little sister', are phenomenally expensive to buy and install.

In addition, buildings are still planned for the tracks and the only feasible site for the

re-opening of Dudley Castle Hill main line station. This idiocy, mind you, on a principal line that Network Rail and the Department for Transport maintain, is 'a railway of national strategic significance'.

I call it stunning ineptitude, corporate stupidity and financial illiteracy to disregard the costs of trams for taxpayers when the 120kms Black Country Railway desperately needs the return of its trains and stations.

The money should go to extend free bus travel for all and to give us electric buses. No more electric trams!

TIM WELLER
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Grubby kids healthier?

WHEN we were kids we would go out to play after school – football, cricket, just racing round having fun, and coming home grubby for food. I do not remember having to wash our hands and tooth cleaning was to rub our gums with soot. I had measles and a bad dose of flu. But no other ailments other than scabs on sore knees, etc.

I am in my late 70s and, have five grandchildren. Two suffer from allergies, one from contact with peanuts, the other from cashew nuts. Both have to carry epipens. Why, by having to be clean, as is the modern tendency, are our descendants being made to suffer from 'man-made ailments'?

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

Beware the shorter life pension con

THE latest revelation blows a gaping hole in the Conservative con on pensions.

Now we are informed that people in this country are not living longer, on the contrary, life spans are getting shorter.

Does that mean the retirement age con introduced by the Tories will be revoked? I doubt it.

They will be raking it in, when people now will be working until they die – all down in my opinion to Tory cuts, austerity, food banks, poor healthcare, the national poverty wage, and zero-hour contracts.

The solution: Don't bother with a pension, it's just a savings scheme for the Government's coffers.

C LLOYD
Dudley

Disabled bays being misused

I am a disabled blue card holder living in Sedgley, shopping at Asda and markets. Both times today all the disabled bays were full, not one had a permit.

Could someone please have a walk round and take the car numbers of these people, at least leave some kind of notice on the cars. There were lots of free bays they could have used.

MRS B SMITH
Sedgley

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If your surviving spouse has to go into care, they will have to use their assets to pay for their care until they get down to their last £14,250. Therefore, it's not a good idea to leave your half share of the home to your surviving partner but instead leave them the USE of your share. This can be achieved by making new **Property Trust Wills**.

These legitimate steps must be taken while you are both alive and in reasonably good mental health. It is therefore important for couples to act NOW!

Most of our clients come to us having already made standard Mirror Wills, or they've been meaning to make a Will but simply haven't got around to it. With Property Trust Wills, yourself and your spouse/partner each leave your half share of the home to the children in Trust, but state that they are not to receive it during the lifetime of the surviving spouse/partner.

This half would then NOT be included in any future means test calculations for care fees. The surviving spouse is free to sell their share of the home, raise cash or move house. Your children are powerless to intervene but simply have to wait for their inheritance, as they would have done previously.

“

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It's a way of life, says David after 35 years working at zoo

A 65-YEAR-OLD has been congratulated for completing 35 years of service at Dudley Zoo.

Dr David Beeston, who has a PhD in zoology, joined the zoo on October 1, 1983, when he set up the education department.

He said: "It was quite by accident how I came to get the job. I was at Birmingham University doing a PhD when a friend of a flatmate of mine had been approached about a job at Dudley Zoo. She wasn't interested so I rang up to see if I could go for the interview instead.

"It's an extremely varied role and every week is different. I could have a student who needs help, a health and safety issue, I may liaise with Wolverhampton University, or even get calls from the public

about a strange spider or snake they have found. People have even called me if they are stuck on a crossword clue about an animal.

"It's a very rewarding role. The zoo is a way of life, not just a job and that's why I've been here so long."

A father-of-three and grandfather-of-two, he headed the education department until 2003 when he took on the registrar and research co-ordinator role he still has today.

Zoo Director Derek Grove said: "He has played a significant role in education and research at Dudley Zoo and continues to help young zookeepers from across the Midlands gain their animal care qualifications."



Dr David Beeston, left, is congratulated for his 35 years of service by zoo director Derek Grove

Canal trust retains its visitor experience prize

DUDLEY Canal and Tunnel Trust has been recognised for its excellence in hosting schools and students when they make a visit to the historic attraction.

The trust, based at The Portal off Birmingham New Road, has once again been awarded the Learning Outside the Classroom quality badge. The accreditation assures quality in different areas of performance, including the experiences offered, learning provided, health and safety and support from venue staff before and after the visit.

"We're so pleased to have this awarded to us again," said Sarah Fellows, heritage activities officer for the trust. "Our programme of workshops and boat trips for schools has been receiving rave reviews from teachers and students since we introduced new opportunities back in 2015 when our Portal building opened.

As well as a boat trip into the caverns under Dudley, students can take part in a workshop sessions on topics including canals and industry, rocks and fossils.

Addict stole from friend and family to buy drugs

A DRUG addict who stole TV sets from his family and a friend to fund his cocaine habit has been jailed for nearly a year.

Kevin Cuttall, aged 31, of Hulland Place, Brierley Hill, admitted two charges of theft from his parents and a close friend, in exchange for £120 worth of cocaine.

Cuttall was also just weeks into an order under a suspended sentence for cannabis production, a breach which he admitted.

At Shrewsbury Crown Court Judge Peter Barrie sentenced Cuttall to 10 months in prison, describing the incidents as 'nasty thefts'.

Katie Fox, prosecuting, said in September 2017, Cuttall's parents were on holiday and he was staying at their home in Leegomery, Telford.

His sister soon became concerned because he had sold his TV, and then noticed a TV set worth £200 had been removed from his parents' home.

Texted

He then texted his mother saying: "I am so sorry for what I have done. I can't believe I have done it again. "I've ruined everything. Drink and drugs made me do it."

His friend, Andrew Bagnell, gave Cuttall keys to go to his house but he was later seen by a neighbour carrying away a TV worth £400 from the property.

Again, Cuttall sent a text,

By Jonny Drury

telling his friend he was sorry for what he had done.

When interviewed, he said he had taken the TVs to buy cocaine.

Police later discovered Cuttall had taken the sets to his dealer's address, where they had each been exchanged £60 worth of cocaine.

Kevin Jones, defending, said his client, who had entered early guilty pleas, had been drug free for three months.

Letters were handed to the judge in mitigation, one from Cuttall's partner.

Mr Jones told the court that Cuttall's mother had been reimbursed for the stolen TV.

The court further heard that, at the time of the offences, Cuttall had stopped complying with his suspended sentence requirements.

Judge Barrie told Cuttall that had he faced up to his problems in the first place, the prison sentence may have been avoided.

Hammer to fall for last time at auction

ONE of the oldest auction businesses in the Midlands is set to close later this month after more than 170 years.

Perry & Phillips Auctioneers, of Mill Street, Bridgnorth, will hold its final sale on October 23. The current saleroom in Low Town has been used since the 1980s but the original Perry & Phillips company can trace its origins as far back as the 1800s.

"We are sad to announce that our October sale will be our last," said Perry & Phillips auctioneer John Ridgway. "The decision to close has not been taken lightly.

"The time has come for myself and other members of our Mill Street team to concentrate on our associated business, the Old Mill Antiques Centre, which continues to attract customers from all over the country and overseas. Following the death of my two brothers, Denis and Philip, who were both integral to the running of the saleroom, I have decided not to continue alone but to channel all my time into the antiques centre."

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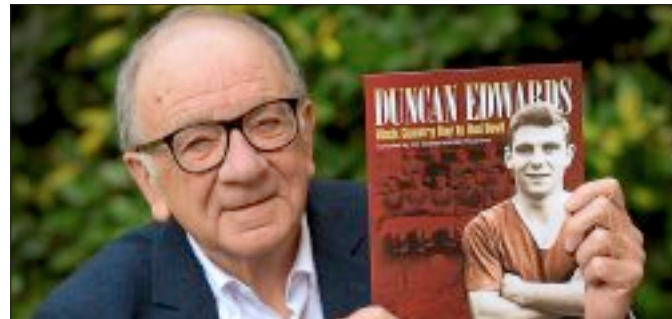
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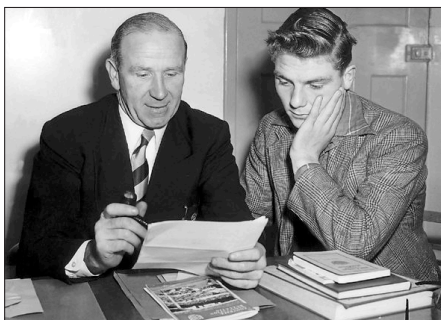
16-year-old Duncan leaves the pitch after his first senior game, against Cardiff City in 1953



Priory Junior School league champions 1947/48



Jim Cadman with a copy of the new book Black Country Boy to Red Devil



Duncan signing his United contract with Matt Busby



Duncan, back row far right, in the Nesscliffe Army team 1957

How Dudley's Duncan became a football legend

THE first time Sir Bobby Charlton saw Duncan Edwards play he knew he would never be as good as him.

"If you look at most football players they're good at certain things: in the air, with their left or right foot, they read the game well, or have pace. But Duncan had it all.

So says the World Cup winner in his foreword for a book honouring his former team mate and friend.

Dudley-born Duncan, who made 177 appearances for Manchester United, scoring 21 goals – as well as 18 caps for England – was tipped for greatness before his life was cut short following the Munich air disaster, aged just 21.

The book, *Black Country Boy to Red Devil*, was published last Monday, which would have been Edwards' 82nd birthday, and is part of commemorations marking the 60th anniversary of his death.

Written by Jim Cadman and Iain

MEMORY LANE

By Heather Large

McCartney, it follows his footballing career from the early days to his glory days. Duncan was born on October 1, 1936, at 23 Malvern Crescent, Holly Hall, and would later move to 31 Elm Road on Dudley's Priory Estate. Both his father and grandfather were keen amateur players. Described as 'a big lad, strong beyond his years', Duncan played in the Priory Road Junior School team crowned league champions in the 1947/48 season.

After moving to Wolverhampton Street Secondary School, Duncan progressed through the schoolboy ranks with Dudley Schools, Worcester County and Birmingham & District. In 1950, he was recommended for an England under-14s trial against Ireland. Then, at the age of 13, he walked out at Wembley on April 7, 1950, to win his first 'cap' for England Schoolboys against Wales Schoolboys.

He was catching the eye of scouts with Wolves, West Bromwich Albion, Birmingham City, Aston Villa and Bolton Wanderers all showing an interest in signing the youngster. But Duncan was set on Manchester United where manager Matt Busby was looking for promising young players to rebuild his team. They became known as the Busby Babes.

After a record-breaking England Schoolboys ninth cap, Duncan became a Manchester United player on June 2, 1952. After signing his professional contract, the 1953/54 season saw him fitting into the United first team with ease, continuing during his two years National Service when he helped his side win two consecutive First Division Championships. After playing for England Under-23s, he made his first team debut in 1955 in a 7-2 win over Scotland at Wembley. He accumulated 17 more England caps before his life was cut tragically short.

Black Country Boy to Red Devil is for sale at the Merry Hill and Wolverhampton branches of Waterstones.



Football legend and Busby Babe, Dudley's Duncan Edwards

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Violin master André Rieu has announced a new UK 2018 tour including a date at the Echo Arena in Liverpool! See the 'King of Waltz' perform with his 60-piece Johann Strauss Orchestra where he will play songs from his repertoire alongside Christmas carols.

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College has lots to offer

Halesowen College has an excellent reputation for its range of courses, outstanding results, fantastic campuses and facilities, and excellent student support.

Having enrolled in the summer, thousands of students are finding out for themselves the benefits of making Halesowen College their number one choice!

Halesowen College recently celebrated a highly successful year, with an outstanding A Level pass rate of 99 per cent and exceptional levels of achievement in Level 3 vocational programmes. More than 50 per cent of students achieved the highest possible triple Distinction Star grades, the equivalent of 3 A Levels. This makes Halesowen College the highest performing 16-18 provider in the area.

The college also has one of the highest levels of progression into higher education, apprenticeships and sustainable employment in the whole of the UK. More than 750 students have progressed from their personalised study programme at Halesowen College to universities across the country, including Oxford and Cambridge. Other students decided to continue studying for their higher-level qualifications at the college, choosing from an impressive range of HNC/D and Foundation Degree programmes. A significant number have also opted for the Higher-Level Apprenticeship route.

Supporting students both personally and academically is taken very seriously by all college staff and this is recognised by students, who are full of praise for the outstanding levels of support and excellent teaching at Halesowen College.

Michael – who progressed to University College Oxford – said: "There is no doubt that I would not have had the success I have without the support I received at Halesowen College. Despite facing numerous challenges, staff were always proactive



The college also has one of the highest levels of progression into higher education, apprenticeships and sustainable employment

in meeting mine and other students' individual needs". University of Durham student Rebecca added: "Halesowen College staff are really caring and I felt supported throughout my course".

The college's 'Early Bird' Open Evening on Monday, October 15, from 5.30 to 7.30pm, will give prospective students their first taste of what Halesowen College can offer, particularly

when choosing their course options for next year. Staff will be available to chat with visitors about the most suitable A Level combination, whether a vocational qualification would be a better option or about the fantastic opportunities available by considering a Professional Apprenticeship.

Visitors to this early event can pick up a copy of the new Halesowen College

prospectus and discuss with subject teachers the amazing range of courses on offer. This will allow prospective students to be more focused on their future and completely ready for attendance at the college's main Open Day on Saturday, November 10, from 10am to 4pm.

At the November Open Day, visitors will have the opportunity to see the fantastic facilities students enjoy in our modern and



Free transport from across the region for all students



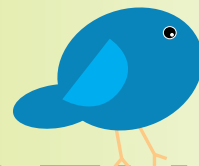
Students are supported both personally and academically

friendly campus. They will discover that most curriculum areas have benefitted from an extensive development programme, resulting in Halesowen College being one of the best equipped colleges around.

Free transport from across the region for all students means the Halesowen is also one of the most easily accessible colleges in the region. Come and see for yourself!



Halesowen College



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Ssssuper! Snake named after safari park expert

SNAKE expert Mark O'Shea has received the best honour he could wish for – a new species is being named after him.

The *Cylindrophis osheai* – pronounced oh-shay-eye – will be referred to colloquially as the O'Shea's pipesnake.

It was found on Boano Island, near Seram in Indonesia and has been named after the Wolverhampton-born herpetologist in honour of his work.

Consultant curator of reptiles at West Midland Safari Park, O'Shea presented O'Shea's Big Adventure for Channel Four and Animal Planet channels.

He said: "I have described and named several snakes and lizards myself but this is the first time a species has been named after me. It is a considerable honour, as many recipients of patronyms like this



Safari park snake expert Mark O'Shea

have been honoured post-mortem. I am thrilled and humbled."

The non-venomous reptile – which feeds on prey including small snakes, earthworms and eels – has a broad



Cylindrophis osheai – O'Shea's pipesnake

wavy stripe along its body and unique colour pattern. Professor O'Shea's love of nature began when exploring Penn Common as a boy and he has written six books on herpetology.

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Call for check on transit site land

WOLVERHAMPTON South East MP Pat McFadden says he wants to make certain that land in Coseley that could become a travellers' transit site is not contaminated.

The Labour MP has called for a new environmental test to see if the site, on Budden Road, is fit for use.

The decision to open the site is cur-

rently under review following Labour taking control of Dudley Council.

In a meeting with the Coseley Focus group at the Summerhill Community Centre, Mr McFadden said: "Let's get a proper environmental report, if there is going to be such a site in the borough, let's find the right place. Let's do it with an open mind. My impression

all along was they had just decided on Coseley no matter what people said.

"I have never said the basic policy of having such a site was wrong because it has worked in Sandwell, it empowers the council and police to move on illegal encampments more quickly. I think these things can only be done with the consent of the community".

More than 20,000 wait four hours or more at A&E

MORE than 20,000 people waited four hours or more at Russells Hall Hospital's A&E last year, new figures show.

Just 78 per cent of patients were seen within the NHS benchmark waiting time of four hours at the Dudley Group NHS Trust – missing the 95 per cent target by 17 per cent.

Figures from NHS England show that 22,348 patients waited for more than four hours at the emergency department in 2017-18, before being discharged, transferred or admitted to a ward. Bosses put the failings down to an increase in patient numbers, with the hospital dealing with around 700 more patients last year than the year before.

It comes as A&E services at the hospital remain under investigation over dozens of deaths, and follows a Care Quality Commission report which gave emergency care the lowest rating of 'inadequate'.

According to NHS England an average of 283 people a day were seen by the trust's A&E department in 2017-18.

Other NHS trusts in the region also performed badly. University Hospital North Midlands Trust, which runs Stafford Hospital, fell 27 per cent below the target, with 53,923 people waiting for four hours or more.

Achieve

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust missed it by 25 per cent, Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust was 16 per cent out and the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust fell 11 per cent under the benchmark.

Diane Wake, chief executive of the Dudley Group Trust, said: "We continue to work closely with our partners and are doing all we can to achieve the target of 95 per cent."

Russells Hall Hospital last achieved the target in March 2017.

Meanwhile, NHS England chiefs are examining whether to relax the 95 per cent A&E target as part of a new Danish-style system where all but the most ill patients would be expected to make an appointment.

A&E waiting time targets have been backed by a senior NHS figure, who says increasing the number of hospital beds is the 'blindingly obvious' solution. Dr Chris Moulton, vice president of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, said the target was a 'good pressure' to keep as few patients waiting as possible.

Crooks fund new stingers



Criminals have paid for West Midlands Police's new stingers

CASH seized from criminals has been spent on equipping a fleet of police response cars with tyre-deflating 'stinger' devices.

Nineteen of the spiked strips have been bought with a donation of more than £10,000 from the Proceeds of Crime Act Fund, a kitty made up of money stripped from offenders and the sale of their assets.

They have been fitted to a fleet of Vauxhall Insignias used by response officers attending emergency incidents.

The first successful sting came on September 23 when officers patrolling in Coventry spotted a

vehicle travelling on false number plates, which had been stolen in a burglary four weeks earlier.

The driver was arrested after the stinger was deployed and later charged with dangerous driving, possessing CS spray, driving without insurance and driving with no licence.

Sergeant Dale Hughes said: "He attempted to drive off in the Audi, despite the wheels having been deflated but clearly he didn't get too far. Each stinger costs about £500 but this single use resulted in the recovery of a stolen car with a value of £8,000."

£60m centre 'no white elephant' Arrest made in 'shocking' case

A £60 million aquatics centre set to be built in Sandwell for the Commonwealth Games 'will not be a white elephant', says leader of Birmingham City Council, Councillor Ian Ward.

He believes the state-of-the-art centre will instead be a 'fantastic boost for Sandwell'.

Back in January, council leader Steve Eling announced plans for Sandwell to build a £60 million aquatics centre to host swimming and diving events at the Birmingham 2022 Games.

The 5,000-seater centre is set to include an Olympic-sized competition pool, a 25m diving pool, two activity studios, a 12-court sports hall, a 125-station gym, a 25-station ladies-only gym, an indoor cycling studio, a sauna/steam room and a cafe.

It will be turned into a leisure centre after the game.

The £60m cost of the centre has raised some eyebrows and attracted criticism about building on a green site in Smethwick.

A BURGLARY suspect has been arrested over a 'shocking' violent break-in at an elderly man's home.

Police traced the 22-year-old to an address in Dudley over the weekend.

He is believed to be involved in the attack in Devereux Road, near Kenrick Park, West Bromwich, on September 14 when an intruder grabbed an 85-year-old man around the throat and pinned him to a chair.

The culprit fled after being disturbed but minutes later is understood to have

smashed his way inside a conservatory at a neighbouring address but again fled empty-handed.

The detained man has also been arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm after an electric stun-gun device was found at the raided property. He remains in police custody for questioning.

Officers found him at an address in Griffin Street, Netherton, at 10.45pm on Saturday night after forcing entry.

Rockers on road with the sound of Stourbridge

MUSICIANS who found fame in the 1980s and 90s will be reunited for more dates celebrating a music scene which briefly made Stourbridge the hippest town on the rock scene.

Ned's Atomic Dustbin, Pop Will Eat Itself and Miles Hunt from The Wonder Stuff will all appear on the Love From Stourbridge tour in Birmingham next year.

Stourbridge rockers Ned's Atomic Dustbin, fronted by Jonn Penney, will headline the two-day event, alongside fellow Black Country band The Wonder Stuff.

The two-day 'tour' has been organised following the success of a reunion gig and tour last year.

Formed in 1987, Ned's Atomic Dustbin are best known for songs such as Not Sleeping Around, Kill Your Television, Grey Cell Green, Trust, Intact and All I Ask of Myself Is That I Hold Together.

The band made three studio albums, starting with their classic debut God Fodder in 1991.

The Black Country quintet quickly gathered a strong fanbase after being offered a support slot by local heroes The Wonder Stuff on their 1989 and 1990 UK tours.

Favourite

The Neds also released several live albums and EPs, videos and became popular in America and Japan.

Pop Will Eat Itself, with members from the Black Country and Birmingham, will also perform at the shows following a performance at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on December 15 with original drummer Fuzz Townsend, who went to more



Jonn Penney, front man of Ned's Atomic Dustbin



Miles Hunt from The Wonder Stuff, who had hits in the 1980s and 90s

recently find fame as a TV presenter with Car SOS. Original members Graham Crabb, Adam Mole and Richard March will also be playing at the Wolverhampton gig.

The group has just released a four CD career anthology, Def Comms 86-18, on Cherry Red Records. It features tracks from all eight of their albums.

Pop Will Eat Itself, who had hit singles with Touched by the Hand of Ciciolina, X Y & Zee, and Get The Girl! Kill The Baddies! will perform hit album This Is The Day...This Is The Hour...This Is This! in full, as well as other favourite tracks.

The Wonder Stuff's Miles Hunt will perform a guest DJ set at the Birmingham shows. Formed in 1986, his band are best known for hit songs such as Caught In My Shadow, Mission Drive, Don't Let Me Down Gently, and Size of a Cow. The quintet split in 1994 before reforming in 2000. They released their first album in more than a decade, Escape from Rubbish Island, in 2004. In recent years Hunt has performed solo and with singer, songwriter and violinist Erica Nockalls.

The Love From Stourbridge gigs are at Birmingham's O2 Institute on April 20 and 21.

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War Horse gallops in to Hippodrome

The unforgettable theatrical experience that is War Horse will have an extended run at Birmingham Hippodrome from Wednesday until November 3 before returning to London.

Following a record-breaking eight years in the West End and having been staged in 11 countries to more than seven million people, the National Theatre's acclaimed play – which was made into a film by Steven Spielberg – will make a welcome return to Birmingham.

At the outbreak of the First World War, Joey, young Albert's beloved horse, is sold to the Cavalry and shipped to France. Albert, who remained on his parents' farm, cannot forget Joey and embarks on a perilous mission to bring him home.

The play is based on the hugely popular novel by Michael Morpurgo and audiences can look forward to a powerfully moving and imaginative drama. At its heart are astonishing life-sized horses by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company, who bring breathing, galloping, charging horses thrillingly to life on stage.

Thomas Dennis, who plays Albert, said: "We've been touring for over a year and Birmingham will be our last UK venue before we go back to the National Theatre. What's really special is that it's 2018 – the centenary anniversary of the end of the war. That gives the piece a special resonance." See www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

Set sail on spectacular Disney voyage



Dream Disney date

IT'S time to Dream Big as the latest Disney On Ice spectacular prepares to charm families at its Birmingham show.

Join Moana, Maui and friends as they embark on their ice debut. Audiences at the Arena Birmingham will set sail with the wayfinder Moana in Dream Big.

This all-new production, produced by Feld Entertainment, assembles a collection of inspiring stories connected by a cast of characters with a desire to explore the

depths, heights and horizons of their dreams. Alongside Moana and demigod Maui are eight tales of courage and heart, including Frozen, Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin and Tangled. The production will be at the Arena from Friday, October 19 to Sunday, October 28, with weekend matinees.

Courage leads the way for Disney's daring heroes. Travel to the kingdom of Arendelle with Anna, Elsa and Olaf in a retelling of the sisterly love that saved a kingdom. Jump into amazing adventures with Aladdin as he seizes his chance to outwit his adversaries in the

marketplace of Agrabah. Discover uncharted worlds with Rapunzel and Jasmine.

Battle the villain Maleficent in the form of a fire-breathing dragon alongside Prince Phillip, igniting the ice in a blazing spectacle. Dive under the sea with Ariel as she yearns to explore life above the waves. And find the inner strength that comes from kindness and determination with Belle, Aurora and Cinderella. Arrive early to celebrate 90 years of Walt Disney's true original, Mickey Mouse.

Tickets are available from www.disneyonice.co.uk

You can't hurry love for Motown

The magical music of Motown will be brought to life when soul classics by Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson and Smokey Robinson play out in a new show coming to Birmingham.

West End hit Motown The Musical will be the first show at The Alexandra Theatre since the venue's £650,000 revamp.

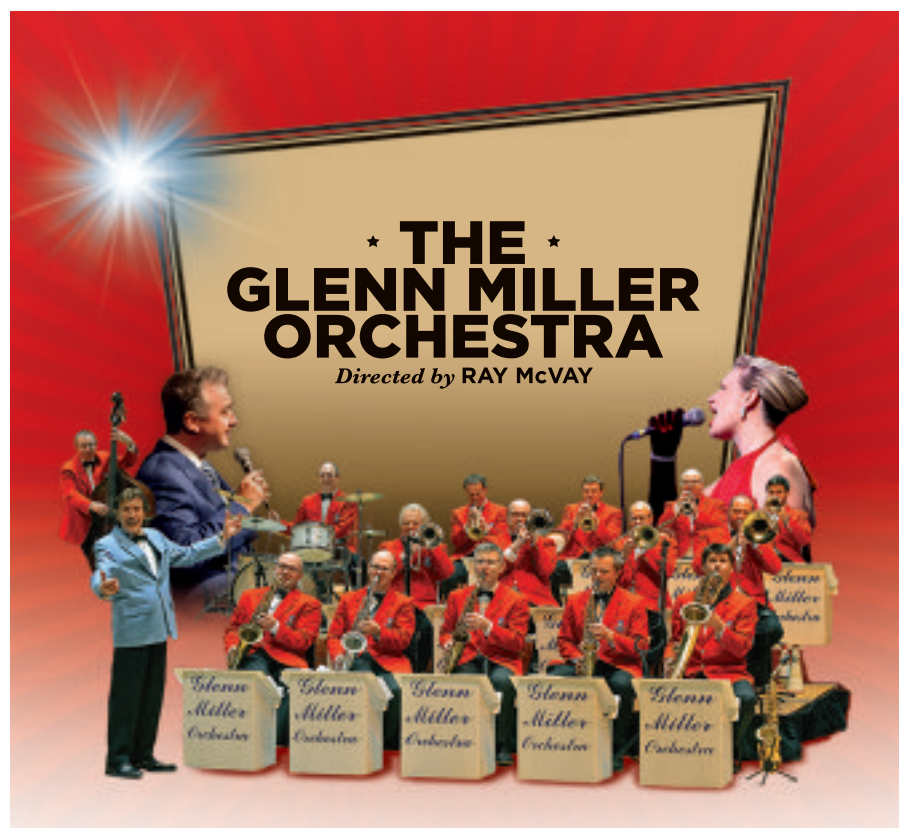
The production is dedicated to the music of the American soul/R&B record label, which was founded in Detroit in 1959 and went on to dominate the pop charts during the 1960s and 70s.

It is opening its first UK and Ireland tour at the Station Street venue, and will run from tonight (Thursday) until November 3.

Fans can look forward to singers with a live orchestra performing 50 Motown favourites including Ain't No Mountain High Enough, I'll Be There, Dancing In The Street, Stop! In The Name Of Love, My Girl and I Heard It through the Grapevine.

It will tell the extraordinary story of Motown founder Berry Gordy, who with just with just 800 dollars borrowed from his family went from featherweight boxer to heavyweight music mogul, discovering and launching the careers of Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye and many more.

Motown the Musical uncovers the true story of the legendary record label that changed music history and created the soundtrack for a generation.



Sunday 21 October 2018, 3pm

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A routine from Kinky Boots



Bootiful show to drag you into fabulous musical

HIT musical Kinky Boots will soon be strutting straight from the Land Of Lola into Wolverhampton – following the official tour launch of the West End show's UK tour

The award-winning show will be at the Grand from October 16 to 27, starring Callum Francis, Coronation

Street's Paula Lane and Joel Harper-Jackson. Inspired by true events, it tells the tale of Charlie Price, who is struggling to live up to his father's expectation and continue the family shoe business in Northampton.

With the factory's future hanging in the balance, help arrives in the unlikely but spectacular form of Lola, a fabulous drag queen in need of some sturdy new stilettos.

Callum Francis, who plays Lola in a flurry of sparkle and colour, is very much the star of this feel-good musical featuring songs by pop icon Cyndi Lauper.

Kinky Boots has won three Olivier Awards, for Best New Musical, Best Costume Design and Best Actor in a Musical.

See www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

Star Jorja to shine at sold out homecoming concert

Jorja Smith has enjoyed a remarkable rise to fame after the release of her debut album Lost and Found.

The Walsall R&B singer is on the road with a sell-out UK tour, which reaches Birmingham's O2 Academy on Saturday.

Jorja started singing when she was eight and began writing songs at the age of 11, amassing many as yet unreleased songs that skew from pop to modern soul.

Her family settled in the area after Jorja's mother forged a career as a jewellery maker, after living in London, and her Jamaica-born father led a neo-soul vocal group called 2nd Naicha. Jorja was raised on a diet of reggae, rock, and soul, which she

countered with her own love of house and dubstep.

Her dad, she said, realised she had a talent when he heard her sing Silent Night in church.

Jorja moved to London where she wrote more songs and supported herself by working at Starbucks. Her breakthrough came in January 2016, self-released her debut single, Blue Lights, which was a hit on local radio in London. She was discovered by Drake who asked her to duet on Get It Together. Jorja said no. "I couldn't sing it because it didn't relate to me," she says. However, soon after, she and her then-boyfriend broke up and the song started to make more sense.

She's enjoyed a meteoric rise since and sang Blue Lights at the recent televised Mercury Prize night.



Jorja Smith – meteoric rise

Laughter from the trenches in war play

A play about how a satirical newspaper that was created in the trenches of the First World War is being staged at Birmingham Rep, with the final performances on Saturday afternoon and evening.

In a bombed out building during the First World War in the Belgian town of Ypres (pronounced Wipers by British soldiers), two officers discover a printing press and create a newspaper for the troops. Far from being a sombre journal, they produce a resolutely cheerful, subversive and very funny newspaper designed to lift the spirits of the men on the frontline. Defying enemy bombardments, gas attacks and disapproval of the top brass, The Wipers Times rolled off the press for two years and was an extraordinary tribute to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity – and paved the way for such irreverent publications as Private Eye, which Have I Got News For You regular Hislop has edited since 1986.

See www.birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

Nigel's work inspired by Polish Jewish culture

It has been a whirlwind year for Nigel Kennedy, seeing him perform huge sell-out shows in London and Manchester, as well as headlining the BBC's Biggest Weekend events in Coventry and Perth.

Next Thursday (October 18) the multi-million selling virtuoso violinist will be at Birmingham's Symphony Hall perform works by Bach, Gershwin, as well as his own self-penned pieces.

A homecoming of sorts for Kennedy, who is a massive Aston Villa fan, he will perform his recent work The Magician of Lublin, inspired by his love of Poland and its Jewish heritage. Kennedy will also play Fugue from Sonata No. 1 by JS Bach and a selection from the Songbook of George Gershwin including Summertime.

On Saturday at Symphony Hall acclaimed conductor Xian Zhang will take the baton for Shostakovich's Symphony No 5. Soprano Fatma Said will also sing a selection of Strauss songs.

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CHOICE



Sandra Oh

Killing Eve (BBC1, 9.25pm)
Having survived a terrifying close call with Villanelle, Eve and the team now have the mole retrieved and ensconced in a safe house, offering the chance to uncover information that could lead them not only to Villanelle, but also to whoever is calling the shots behind her. However, with the cold-blooded and unpredictable assassin still very much at large, are any of them actually safe until she is caught? Spy thriller, starring Jodie Comer, Sandra Oh, Fiona Shaw, Kim Bodnia and Darren Boyd.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.30** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Baroness Hunt. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. **3.00** Escape to the Country. **4.00** Film: Frozen. (2013) Disney animated fantasy adventure, with the voice of Kristen Bell. **5.30** BBC News. **5.40** Regional Programme. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. **6.40** **Strictly Come Dancing**. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman host the next stage of the dance contest, as the 13 remaining couples take to the floor to impress judges Shirley Ballas, Craig Revel Horwood, Bruno Tonioli and Darcey Bussell, as well as the viewers, and avoid being eliminated in tomorrow night's results show. The likes of Faye Tozer, Ashley Roberts, Danny John-Jules and Joe Sugg have all impressed in the opening weeks, but now they are only one poor dance away from potentially being sent home. **8.35** **Casualty**. Rash reels from his break up with Gem as she refuses to accept his apology, while David reaches desperation point and gets in touch with Zsa Zsa to help in the quest to find Dylan – but events quickly spiral out of control. **9.25** **Killing Eve**. Having survived a terrifying close call with Villanelle, Eve now has the mole ensconced in a safe house and hopes to crack the case open. Spy thriller, starring Sandra Oh. **10.10** BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.30** **This Country**. A one-off special investigating the fallout from the criminal activity of Kerry Mucklowe, who became embroiled in a criminal enterprise with her devious father Martin. **11.15** **Live at the Apollo**. Jason Manford hosts an evergreen stand-up at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London, introducing routines by Georgie comic Chris Ramsey and the multi-talented Doc Brown. (R) **11.45** **The NFL Show**. Mark Chapman is joined by former players Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to present highlights of Thursday night's game – New York Giants v Philadelphia Eagles at MetLife Stadium. **12.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Top Class. (R) **7.00** Marrying Mum and Dad. (R) **7.30** All Over the Place: Europe. (R) **8.00** The Designers. (R) **8.30** Absolute Genius with Rick & Dom. (R) **9.00** Elephant Diaries. (R) **9.30** Elephant Diaries. (R) **10.00** Talk to the Animals. (R) **11.00** Echo: An Unforgettable Elephant: Natural World. (R) **12.00** The Incredible Space Men. (R) **12.30** Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul. **1.30** Coast. **1.50** Film: The Winslow Boy. (1999) **3.30** Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF. (R) **4.30** Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) **5.00** Monkman & Seagull's Genius Guide to Britain. (R) **5.30** Dad's Army. (R) **6.00** **Mediterranean with Simon Reeve**. A journey explores the region, examining the challenges currently facing the nations in the area. In the first episode, Simon visits Malta, southern Italy and Albania. (R) **7.00** **Murray Walker: A Life in the Fast Lane**. A profile of the motor-racing commentator whose voice became one of the most recognisable on British television, and who continues to contribute to the BBC's Formula One coverage. **8.00** **A House Through Time**. David Olusoga focuses on the 1850s to the 1890s, revealing how a widow changed the Liverpool dwelling into a boarding house, and uncovering stories of infidelity and murder. (R) **9.00** **Black Hollywood: "They've Gotta Have Us"**. Film veterans Harry Belafonte, Earl Cameron and Diahann Carroll discuss what it was like to be a pioneer in a white movie world. **10.00** **QI XL**. Sandi Toksvig asks questions relating to animals that start with a P. Alan Davies is joined by comedian Phil Jupitus, broadcaster Danny Baker and actress Teri Hatcher. **10.45** **Snowfall**. With Franklin and Leon nowhere to be seen Jerome is getting worried. Locked in a basement across town, Franklin has to think fast to stay alive. **11.30** **Later Weekend with Jools Holland**. Neneh Cherry performs songs from her fifth solo album Broken Politics. Also appearing are the Lemon Twigs, Echo & the Bunnymen, Sam Fender, Toots Hibbert and Ashley McBryde. **12.35** **Film: Department Q: A Conspiracy of Faith**. (2016) **2.20** Trust. (R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: ToonMarty. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Mighty Magiswords! (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.40** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **12.10** The X Factor. (R) **1.15** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket. Coverage from Newmarket and York. **4.15** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) **5.15** ITV News; Weather. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Film: Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince. (2009) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe. **8.35** **The X Factor**. The remaining 24 acts travel to glamorous destinations across the world and have just one more chance to impress their mentors as the live shows draw tantalisingly closer. Each of the regular judges will be joined by a guest who knows all about what it takes to make it in the industry, to help them decide which of the contestants make the cut. **9.50** **The Jonathan Ross Show**. Jonathan is joined by Strictly Come Dancing judges Shirley Ballas, Darcey Bussell and Craig Revel Horwood, along with comedian Joe Lycett, former England footballer Peter Crouch and star of Black Earth Rising Michaela Coel. Plus, award-winning singer Tom Odell performs in the studio. **10.55** ITV News; Weather. **11.10** **Film: The Expendables**. (2010) A mercenary team is double-crossed while on a mission to kill a South American dictator. Action thriller, directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone. With Jason Statham. **1.00** Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** Long Lost Family. The stories of a 66-year-old woman who gave up her baby as a teenager and a 53-year-old searching for her birth mother. Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell present. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.40** Motor Sport: Caterham. **7.05** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.30** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.35** Frasier. (R) **9.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** Heineken Champions Cup Rugby: The Big Tackle. **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Live Heineken Champions Cup Rugby: Bath v Toulouse (Kick-off 1.00pm). **3.10** Car SOS. (R) **4.05** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.35** The People's Vet. **5.35** Escape to the Chateau: DIY. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News**. **7.00** **Britain at Low Tide**. In Fife, Tori Herridge explores a wreck close to the scene of one of Britain's worst railway disasters, and assesses the role it played in the rescue operation. A series of holes in rocks on the foreshore lead Tori and the archaeologists to the story of an industry that once dominated the local shoreline, and depended wholly on the power of the sea. She also examines stone carvings left in caves by one of Scotland's oldest tribes. Last in the series. (R) **8.00** **Britain's Most Historic Towns**. Alice Roberts explores the Norman period of British history by examining events that occurred in Winchester, a historic town that still retains many hallmarks of the 11th and 12th centuries. To get a taste of this era, she attempts to storm a castle wearing chain mail, investigates the origins of modern surgery, and tries some eel pie. At the conclusion of the episode, cutting edge CGI is used to take the town back in time, and recreate how it would have looked during this period of British history. (R) **9.00** **Film: Red 2**. (2013) Former CIA agent Frank Moses reunites his squad of retired operatives for a vital mission. A devastatingly powerful new weapon has been stolen, and it falls to Frank's team to retrieve it – which means facing lethal assassins, terrorists and corrupt government officials out to steal the device. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren and John Malkovich. **11.15** **Film: Die Hard**. (1988) Action thriller, starring Bruce Willis and Alan Rickman. **1.45** Experimental. (R) **2.40** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.50** Vet on the Hill. **5.45** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.20** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.35** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 4. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.05** Film: The Shaggy Dog. (2006) Comedy remake, starring Tim Allen. **3.05** Access. **3.10** Film: The Shaggy Dog. (2006) Concluded. **4.10** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **5.05** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R) **6.05** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Paul Bohl and Steve Pinner evict a couple who owe five months' rent on a flat in an affluent London suburb. (R) **7.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Paul Bohl and Steve Pinner face some tough decisions when they are given the task of repossessing a house in which a woman is living with two young children. (R) **7.55** **5 News Weekend**. **8.00** **The Theatre of Death: Eight Days That Made Rome**. Bettany Hughes explores the day in 80AD when the Colosseum opened its gates for the first time. For new emperor Titus, the spectacular games and events were an opportunity to win over the people and secure his place on the imperial throne, but why did the Romans – cultured and civilised in so many ways – enjoy witnessing such brutality and bloodletting? Bettany travels across the Roman world in a bid to find answers. Dramatisations featuring Sam Barrie, Oliver Monaghan and Paul Lacoux bring the key moments to life. (R) **9.00** **Secrets of the Gladiators: Rome Unwrapped**. Documentary exploring the surviving ruins of ancient Rome, beginning with a look at the Colosseum, featuring surviving accounts from the day the stadium opened. **10.00** **Live Boxing: The Heavyweights**. Lee McGregor v Thomas Essomba. Coverage of the bout for the vacant Commonwealth Bantamweight title at York Hall in Bethnal Green, London. **11.45** **Criminals: Caught on Camera**. Nick Wallis joins police forces across the country to reveal how CCTV and technological advances are helping to ensure convictions against shoplifters. (R) **12.15** Sportscasino. **3.10** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) **4.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Abroad. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Monkey Planet **8.00** Life Story **9.00** Film: Goldstone (2016) **10.45** Inside No 9 **11.45** Classic Albums **1.45** Monkey Planet **2.45** Life Story **3.45** Close **ITV2**
12.00 Catchphrase **12.40** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.45** The X Factor **2.50** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **4.55** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **7.00** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **10.35** Celebrity Juice **11.20** Family Guy **12.40** American Dad! **1.40** Don't Hate the Playaz **2.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
2.50 Agatha Christie's Poirot **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Midsummer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Inspector Morse **1.15** On the Buses **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**
11.20 Cash Cowboys **1.20** Pawn Stars **3.05** Film: Bend of the River (1952) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10** Film: Bend of the River (1952) **5.10** Film: Lawman (1971) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15** Film: Lawman (1971) **7.15** Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20** Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **9.00** Film: Ransom (1996) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: Ransom (1996) **11.25** FYI Daily **12.30** Film: Death Wish 2 (1981) **1.15** The Protectors **1.50** The Americans **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
12.15 Extreme Cake Makers **12.30** The Great British Bake Off **1.50** Film: Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) **3.30** Young Sheldon **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: The Purge: Anarchy (2014) **11.00** Gogglebox **1.15** Tattoo Fixers **2.20** Rude Tube **3.40** Celebs Go Dating: The Finale **4.30** Don't Tell the Bride **5.25** Rude(ish) Tube **Film4**
11.00 Hotel for Dogs (2009) **1.05** Epic (2013) **3.10** The Three Stooges (2012) **5.00** Carry On Teacher (1959) **6.45** Cowboys & Aliens (2011) **9.00** Thor (2011) **11.15** The World's End (2013) **1.25** Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (2011) **3.20** Close

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CHOICE



Anna Friel

Butterfly (ITV, 9pm)
New drama series about separated couple Vicky and Stephen, who are reunited when their 11-year-old son Max identifies as a girl. Despite being in a new relationship, Stephen still has unresolved feelings for his ex, and moves back into the family home in the hope of forming a closer bond with his children. While Max's sister encourages him to embrace his female identity, Vicky fears the consequences and a furious Stephen is driven to a terrible revelation. Starring Anna Friel, Emmett J Scanlan, Amy Huberman, Lorraine Burroughs, Lola Ogunyemi and Leah Hackett.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **11.00** Regional Programme. **11.30** Sunday Morning Live. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Points of View. **3.00** Songs of Praise. **3.35** Lifeline. **3.45** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.30** BBC News. **5.45** Regional Programme. **5.55** Countryfile.
6.55 **Doctor Who.** The Doctor and her new friends have a mystery to solve when they become trapped in a hostile alien world.
7.45 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winklerman present the results of last night's show before another couple leaves the competition. The Backstreet Boys perform a medley of their greatest hits.
8.30 **Still Open All Hours.** Leroy gets involved in a love triangle when Beth turns up for their date with a friend, while Granville uses a man who claims to have been abducted by aliens to boost sales.
9.00 **The Cry.** The police investigation begins to focus on Joanna and Alistair, as Peter gets a warrant to search their house and belongings. The couple look back over the day they first arrived in Australia in a desperate effort to work out what happened to their missing child, and agree to a television interview in the hope of sharing their side of the story with the world. However, as Joanna's behaviour grows increasingly unstable, a rattled Alistair goes to the police station, determined to find out what they know.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 **New Tricks.** Part one of two. Gerry is spooked when the team is called in after the discovery of the body of a policeman that has lain untouched under a basement for 30 years. (R)
11.30 **The Women's Football Show.** Eliidh Barbour presents the pick of the action from the Women's Super League, including reigning champions Chelsea's clash with Arsenal. Plus, Manchester City v West Ham United.
12.05 **The Apprentice.** (R) **1.05** The Apprentice: You're Fired. (R) **1.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Food & Drink. **12.00** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **1.00** Film: Pal Joey. (1957) Musical comedy, starring Frank Sinatra. **2.45** Flog It! **3.30** Meet the Moose Family: Natural World. (R) **4.30** Rugby League: Super League Grand Final Highlights. **5.30** NFL Live. Oakland Raiders v Seattle Seahawks (Kick-off 6.00pm).
7.00 **Sue Perkins and the Chimp Sanctuary.** After a recent change in American law, decades of testing on chimpanzees has been brought to an end. In this programme, Sue Perkins meets Jill, Whitney, Paula-Jean, Tessa, Martha and Ariah as they settle in at US national Sanctuary Chimp Haven after an 800-mile journey from a laboratory in New Mexico to rural Louisiana. Sue also meet a representative of the government agency responsible for federal chimpanzee testing to find out if they think the medical advances to human health have been worth it. (R)
8.00 **Mediterranean with Simon Reeve.** Simon explores Cyprus, Lebanon, Israel and Gaza, going on patrol with UN peacekeepers, discovering the roots of Christianity and crossing the world's most heavily fortified borders.
9.00 **Last Chance Lawyer New York City.** Howard represents a woman with no prior criminal record accused of murdering her husband. However, while he is positive that she is innocent, Marie is not so easily convinced.
9.45 **Mock the Week.** Dara O Briain and Hugh Dennis front a special edition of the topical comedy show featuring best bits and unseen material from the series. (R)
10.15 **No Activity.** Stokes and Hendy are separated and forced to work with other partners. Bruce seeks advice from Jimmy about how to rebuild his relationship with his nephew.
10.45 **No Activity.** Hendy and Stokes stake out the suspected kidnap location. Last in the series.
11.15 Film: **Selma.** (2014)
1.15 Billion Dollar Deals and How They Changed Your World. (R) **2.15** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **3.15** Holby City. (R) **4.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stars: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Mighty Magiswords! (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Love Your Home and Garden. (R) **10.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **12.30** Emmerdale 1918. (R) **1.00** ITV News. **1.15** You've Been Framed! (R) **1.45** The X Factor. (R) **3.00** Back to Mine. **3.30** The Big Audition. (R) **4.30** The Chase. (R) **5.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **6.30** ITV News: Weather.
6.45 **Regional Programme:** Weather.
7.00 **The Chase Celebrity Special.** New series. Bradley Walsh presents as Coronation Street stars Simon Gregson, Victoria Skanoye, Lucy Fallowe and Andrew Whympt pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.
8.00 **The X Factor.** The second episode of the Judges' Houses phase, in which the contestants must impress their individual mentor and a special guest judge to win a place in the live shows.
9.00 **Butterfly.** New series. Drama about a separated couple who are reunited when their son identifies as a girl, but divided over what is best for their child's future.
10.00 ITV News: Weather.
10.20 **Police in Danger: Caught on Camera.** What happens when police officers charged with keeping the public safe come under attack, featuring footage filmed by body cameras worn by officers themselves. (R)
11.15 **Gordon, Gino and Fred: Road Trip.** Gordon Ramsay, Gino D'Acampo and Fred Sirieix organise a ceremony in their home countries. (R)
12.15 Strangers. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Motor Sport: British Rally Championships. **6.35** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **7.30** Frasier. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Jamie Cooks Italy. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Film: Antz. (1998) Animated comedy, with the voice of Woody Allen. **3.10** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.30** Grand Designs. (R)
6.30 **Channel 4 News.**
7.00 **Phil Spencer's Stately Homes.** The property expert visits Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire, searching for a lost railway under the building and trying his hand at modern-day pest control with a medieval twist. He also discovers an aristocratic sex scandal painted on the ceiling and learns the astronomical cost of the original construction work. (R)
8.00 **Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore the Naviglio Grande Canal in Italy, which runs from Lake Maggiore to Milan and is Europe's oldest working canal, providing passage for marble-carrying barges for over 500 years. Along the way, they stop at the Swiss lakeside town of Locarno, the gardens of Isola Bella, and Milan's most famous cathedral, as well as learning a traditional Italian bargaining song.
9.00 **Film: Now You See Me 2.** (2016) Premiere. A gang of magicians-turned-criminals is reunited by a ruthless technology magnate, who forces the team to carry out a seemingly impossible heist on his behalf. The illusionists realise their only hope of avoiding the law is to expose the businessman's illegal activities. Crime thriller sequel, starring Jesse Eisenberg, Mark Ruffalo, Daniel Radcliffe and Morgan Freeman.
11.35 **Film: The Fault in Our Stars.** (2014) Two American teenagers bond at a cancer support group and go on a literary pilgrimage to Amsterdam. Romantic drama, starring Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort.
1.45 George Clarke's Amazing Builds by the Sea. (R) **2.40** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) **3.35** Grand Designs New Zealand. (R) **4.30** Vet to the Hill. (R) **5.25** Buy It Now. (R) **5.50** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **6.30** Luo Bao Bei. (R) **6.40** Dinky Dragon. (R) **6.50** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.00** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.25** Rusty Rivets. (R) **7.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.10** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.25** Nella the Princess Knight. **8.40** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.00** Pirata & Capitano. (R) **9.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.30** Floogals. (R) **9.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **10.00** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.20** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. (R) **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Friends. (R) **12.30** Friends. (R) **1.00** Friends. (R) **1.30** Friends. (R) **2.00** Friends. (R) **2.30** Friends. (R) **3.00** Friends. (R) **3.25** Friends. (R) **3.55** Friends. (R) **4.25** Friends. (R) **4.55** Film: Jack the Giant Slayer. (2013) **5.55** 5 News Update.
6.00 **Film: Jack the Giant Slayer.** (2013) Concluded.
7.00 **World's Most Vicious Beasts.** Part one of two. The 10 deadliest animals from prehistoric times, including sabre-toothed cats, giant venomous lizards, huge birds, and the infamous Tyrannosaurus Rex.
7.55 **5 News Weekend.**
8.00 **Ice Road Truckers.** New series. The return of the documentary following drivers hauling supplies over frozen terrain, with companies dealing with predictions of one of the shortest winters on record.
9.00 **Ancient Mysteries: Viking Burial Secrets Revealed.** New series. Documentary looking into the discovery of a Viking tomb in the small Danish town of Fregerslev in November 2012, one of the largest ever found in Denmark.
10.00 **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat.
11.30 **Michael Jackson: Man in the Mirror.** Profile of the singer, following his development from child star with the Jackson 5 to becoming an iconic performer in his own right as an adult. (R)
1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Paddington Station 24/7. (R) **4.00** Inside Britain's Biggest Mosque. (R) **4.45** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** House Doctor. (R) **5.35** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Engineering Giants: Ferry Strip-Down **8.00** James May's Cars of the People **9.00** Cold War: Hot Jets **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Faud: Bette and Joan **12.00** The Art of France **1.00** Dusts at the BBC **2.00** Robert Rauschenberg: Pop Art Pioneer **3.00** James May's Cars of the People **4.00** Close
ITV2
12.15 The X Factor **1.30** Catchphrase **2.10** Film: Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15** Film: Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **4.30** Film: Happy Feet Two (2011) **5.30** FYI Daily **5.55** Film: Happy Feet Two (2011) **6.25** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **10.00** Family Guy **11.25** American Dad! **12.25** The Cleveland Show **12.50** The Weekender: Boat Party **1.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
1.25 Agatha Christie's Poirot **3.20** Film: Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle (1972) **4.55** Foyle's War **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Fire in the Blood **1.05** Long Lost Family **2.00** Murder, She Wrote **3.45** Road to Avonlea **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
12.40 Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **1.40** FYI Daily **1.45** Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **2.55** Film: The Alamo (1960) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** Film: The Alamo (1960) **6.05** Made in Britain **7.10** Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1986) **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15** Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1986) **9.00** Film: Safe House (2012) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: Safe House (2012) **11.20** Film: Unknown (2011) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25** Film: Unknown (2011) **1.40** Minder **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.50 The Big Bang Theory **4.40** Film: Rio 2 (2014) **6.40** Film: Captain America: The First Avenger (2011) **9.00** Celebs Go Dating **10.00** Club Rep Wars **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.05** First Dates **1.10** Celebs Go Dating **2.15** Club Rep Wars **3.10** Rude Tube **3.35** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 Flight of the Navigator (1986) **12.50** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011) **2.55** A Monster in Paris (2011) **4.40** Mrs Doubtfire (1993) **7.00** Turner & Hooch (1989) **9.00** The Family (2013) **11.15** True Lies (1994) **2.00** Hitchcock/Truffaut (2015) **3.45** Close

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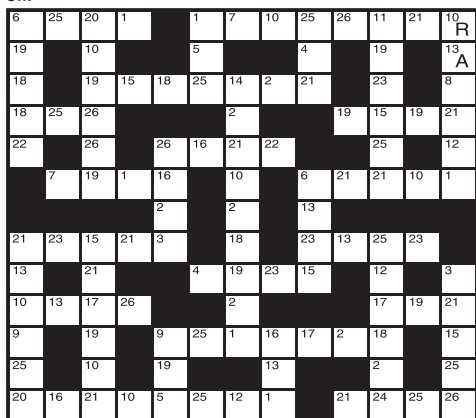
Advertising Standards Authority

BRAIN GYM

No.501

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
E	O	P	A	J	M	T	G	Z	N	B	C	K	L	D	U	Y	S	Q	R	W	I	F	V	X	H

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

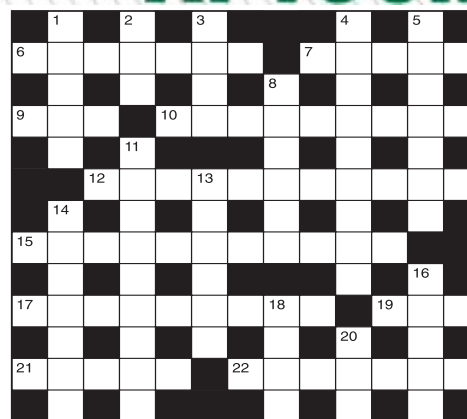
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. A cheese list misplaced and not brought back (7)
7. One not born to work (5)
9. It's evacuated during the shelling (6)
10. A brave man (3,6)
12. Handy aid in solving crime (11)
15. Proceeded to argue like Siamese Twins? (6,5)
17. Not up to date with the accounts (2,7)
19. Spelling this can be fun (3)
21. Used by those dying to have attractive hair (5)
22. Grave words for those who are late (7)

Down

1. A bench to put in the sun (5)
2. Old prophet among the Israelites (3)
3. New mode of ecclesiastical architecture? (4)
4. Flew round in a miraculous way (9)
5. Word of praise (7)
8. Type of briefs used in the textile industry (6)
11. A foreign girl who drops in after marriage! (9)
13. Incorrectly tagged labour-saving device (6)
14. It may lead to a quick duck for any batsman (7)
16. Time of strain? (5)
18. Ready to drop (4)
20. Enclosure in the post you open (6)



Quick Clues:

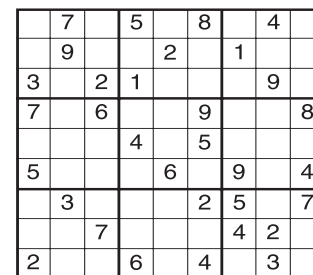
Across

6. Generous (7)
7. Flinch (5)
9. Intimidate (3)
10. Litter (9)
12. Formal utterance (11)
15. Narrator (11)
17. Food (9)
19. Arid (3)
21. Demise (5)
22. Slander (7)

Down

1. Guide (5)
2. Wager (3)
3. Huge (4)
4. Buyer (9)
5. Leave (7)
8. Disclose (6)
11. Corruption (9)
13. Eager (6)
14. Begun (7)
16. 144 (5)
18. Otherwise (4)
20. Damp (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	8	9	7	5	2	1	3	4
4	5	1	8	6	3	2	9	7
2	3	7	1	4	9	8	5	6
7	1	6	4	8	5	9	2	3
3	9	8	2	7	1	6	4	5
5	4	2	9	3	6	7	1	8
9	6	3	5	1	8	4	7	2
8	2	4	3	9	7	5	6	1
1	7	5	6	2	4	3	8	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC – Across: 7 Direct descent; 8 Disorder; 9 Laps; 10 Stater; 12 Insure; 14 Prison; 16 Stuff; 18 Taxi; 20 Misprint; 22 Light industry. Down: 1 Minister; 2 Report; 3 Stud; 4 Dear sirs; 5 Scales; 6 Snap; 11 Ring main; 13 Refinery; 15 Slight; 17 Unrest; 19 Axis; 21 Side. QUICK – Across: 7 Discreditable; 8 Sediment; 9 Type; 10 Divert; 12 Sledge; 14 Better; 16 Edible; 18 Room; 20 Strength; 22 Accommodating. Down: 1 Lifeline; 2 Scribe; 3 Dene; 4 Distaste; 5 Mantle; 6 Slap; 11 Tiresome; 13 Gelatine; 15 Tomboy; 17 Ignite; 19 Once; 21 Rude.

Quiz

1. What nationality was the composer Heitor Villa-Lobos?
2. The Khyber Pass connects Pakistan and which other country?
3. Which court was abolished by the Long Parliament in 1641?
4. Which Carry On star was born James Smith?
5. What parts of speech are 'they' and 'them'?
6. What do we call Pongo pygmaeus?
7. Which former sex symbol described Jill Phipps as the "Joan of Arc of veal"?
8. Of what is the bar a unit?
9. Which Roman slave is associated with a lion?
10. What is the name of the channel separating Tasmania from Australia?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 W H Auden; 2 Octopus; 3 Numbers; 4 Leopard; 5 White River; 6 Bolivia; 7 Corona; 8 County Kerry; 9 A grass; 10 Patricia

Highsmith.

Niner: CORPULENT

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

1876792
674238
9354

gives courage,
gives more courage,
gives a battle.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Stunning detached property is set in magnificent gardens

A stunning, spacious and extended inter-war three-bedroomed detached family home set in magnificent gardens, 6 High Park Crescent, Sedgley, has been totally transformed by its present owners in recent years to an exemplary specification, whilst carefully retaining many fine features.

It is for sale through Taylors estate agents at £320,000. The property has gas central heating and double glazing. It is enviably situated on an imposing corner plot in a highly favoured yet convenient "backwater". From the property you can enjoy panoramic distant views from the front, with particular features including an imposing reception hall with oak stripped flooring, "triple-aspect" living room and an extended/reappointed "hub of the house" dining kitchen, delightful sheltered gardens and meticulous standards of presentation throughout.

Elegant external elevations are rendered, surmounted by a pitched tiled roof. The home is set back from the road behind lawned fore and side gardens, with a block paved driveway approach leading to a garage. The reception hall has an original oak wood stripped floor, a three flight staircase with a handrail to the first floor, and oak panelled doors with chrome detailing off. There is a spacious cloakroom/WC to the front in white contemporary style with stripped and stained floorboards, and a walk-in store/pantry. The magnificent through living room has a bay window to the front and patio doors to the rear, with bow windows flanking the elegant over-mantle with a living flame gas fire below. The room has stripped and stained floorboards.

The extended dining kitchen has a dining area with wood stripped flooring, white high gloss units, integrated electric hob with stainless steel/glass extractor above, fan assisted electric double oven, washing machine, dishwasher and vinyl laminate flooring.

Upstairs, bedroom one has panoramic distance views towards the Clee Hills and laminate flooring.

SEDGLEY £320,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Taylors Estate Agents

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Spacious & extended
Tremendous character
Three double bedrooms
Recently transformed



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Three-bedroom town house has large garden

KINGSWINFORD
£159,950

Coming with a large, beautifully laid out rear garden with decking, lawns and a Koi pool, this modern end town house in Camberley Road, Kingswinford, is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents at £159,950.

In a sought after cul-de-sac position within High Acres, offering a good sized layout of accommodation, this includes gas central heating and upvc double glazing.

This briefly comprises of a large, full depth lounge with a dining area, a fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, all with fitted wardrobes/storage and a bathroom with a separate shower.

To the side of the property is a large storage room which includes a WC.

Contact Taylors Estate Agents on 01384 401777.



Traditional house is well proportioned and extended

SEDGLEY
£190,000

<<<

This extended traditional three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Richmond Road, Sedgley, is ideal for a family.

Having well proportioned accommodation, including three bedrooms and an attic room, it is for sale through Wakeman estate agents at £190,000 with no chain.

Its accommodation includes a porch, entrance hall, a front living room, a rear living room, a conservatory, an extended kitchen, a side passageway, a landing, three bedrooms, an attic room, bathroom, garage, gardens and parking.

The property is situated in a popular residential area close to the centre of Sedgley where a wide range of amenities are available.

Contact Wakeman estate agents on 01384 459999.

K. Stuart Swash

AUCTION - 25TH OCTOBER 2018



'CLEMENT VIEW', 32 ROCK STREET, UPPER GORNAL, DY3 2BL

Impressive Period Detached, spacious accommodation, 2 Reception, Cellar, 3 Bedrooms, Full Refurbishment Required Epc: TBA Coach House with 2 upper rooms, large Grounds - possible development potential (STPP)

Guide £170,000 / £180,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 12th & 13th OCTOBER @ 10.00 a.m.



28 JEFFREY AVENUE, PARKFIELDS, WV4 6HU

Cul-de-sac location, large Semi., Hall 2 Reception, Conservatory, Kitchen, WC., Workshop, 3 Bedrooms, large Bathroom, off-road Parking, Rear Garden. Epc: D.64

Guide: £107,000 / £112,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 12th & 13th OCTOBER @ 11.00 a.m.



22 MARLBROOK DRIVE, GOLDTHORN HILL, WV4 5AU

Large corner site, Modern Detached + Annexe. Porch, Hall, Cloakroom, 2 Reception, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Annexe offering Lounge, Kitchen, Double Bedroom, spacious Lobby, Bathroom, Double Garage, ample off-road Parking, large Rear Garden. Epc: D.58

Guide £220,000 / £230,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 12th & 13th OCTOBER @ 11.45 a.m.



16 PARK AVENUE, GOLDTHORN PARK, WV4 5AL

Established location, Detached Bungalow ripe for refurbishment. Large driveway, Porch, Hall, 2 Reception, Sun Lounge, Kitchen area, 2 Double Bedrooms, Garage, wide Rear Garden. Epc: G.11

Guide £175,000 / £185,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 12th & 13th OCTOBER @ 10.00 a.m.



27 MALCOLM COURT + GARAGE, off LOWER VAUXHALL, WV1 4SS

First Floor Flat - easy access to shops & City Centre. Hall, Store, Lounge, Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Shower Room. Garage No. 7. Epc: D.68

Guide: £19,000 / £24,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 12th & 13th OCTOBER @ 11.00 a.m.



26 SHOWELL ROAD, BUSHBURY, WV10 9LT

End Terrace in convenient location - ready for refurbishment. Majority Double Glazing, CH system, 2 Reception, Kitchen, Lobby, Bathroom, 2 Double Bedrooms, (90ft. approx.) Rear Garden Epc: E.49

Guide: £19,000 / £24,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 12th & 13th OCTOBER @ 12.00 noon



38 SABRINA ROAD, WIGHTWICK, WV6 8BP

Prime residential area, large Detached, Hall, 3 Reception, spacious 20ft Kitchen, Utility, Study, WC., 5 Bedrooms, Bathroom + additional Bathroom / shower area, Garage, generous Rear Garden. Epc: TBA

Guide £395,000 / £415,000.

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 12th & 13th OCTOBER @ 1.00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Viewing of all Lots at own risk. Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule



SEDGLEY, Gospel End Road

Enviably situated on corner plot in favoured district adjacent to open fields & with good distant views; an appreciably **SPACIOUS**, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family residence offering **TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL** briefly comprising; entrance vestibule, hall, cloakroom, 19' through lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, pantry, Gallery landing, **FOUR** bedrooms, bathroom. Gardens to front, side & rear, Double garage. EPC: D SEDGLEY



COSELEY, Bancroft Close

VAST CORNER PLOT (with tremendous potential) - Spacious gas centrally heated part UPVC double glazed detached family home at head of cul-de-sac within walking distance of park, shops, schools etc. comprising; reception hall, lounge with bay, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom. Four bedrooms (one with shower room en suite), bathroom, garage, lengthy front garden, side and sheltered rear gardens. EPC:TBC. SEDGLEY.



LOWER GORNAL, Thornleigh

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Fantastically **EXTENDED** semi-detached property situated on the popular Thornleigh neighbourhood. With entrance porch and hallway as well as extended through lounge and kitchen-diner this family home also boasts **THREE BEDROOMS**, attractive modern shower room, garage/ storage, enclosed low maintenance rear garden with drive for multiple vehicles to fore as well as gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£330,000**

Offers in the region of **£249,950**

Offers in the region of **£174,950**



UPPER GORNAL, Vale Street

Highly individual, extended, gas centrally heated, uPVC detached enjoying panoramic distant views briefly comprising; reception hall, reappointed cloakroom, upgraded breakfast kitchen, utility, office, transverse lounge, uPVC double glazed conservatory. Three generous bedrooms, stunning reappointed bathroom. Block paved driveway, landscaped garden. EPC: B SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£260,000**



DUDLEY, 23B Oak Green

Finished to a high standard, and being one of a pair of **DETACHED NEW BUILD HOMES**, with living accommodation over three storeys, recently completed and available **NOW**. Benefitting from gas central heating & double glazing as well as boasting fitted kitchen with appliances, living room with mood lighting, guest w/c, **THREE BEDROOMS** with en-suite to master, **STUNNING** bathroom, garden, driveway with electric car charging points. SAP:B SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£215,000**



WOLVERHAMPTON, Edale Close, Ettingshall Park

IDEAL BUNGALOW LOCATION! Set in quiet cul-de-sac a freehold gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed detached bungalow with **NO UPWARD CHAIN** offering potential. Accommodation includes entrance hall, two double bedrooms (both with wardrobes), tiled shower room, 16'8" living/ dining room (with patio doors to garden), kitchen. Delightful sheltered and secluded rear garden, large garage, small carport. EPC D SEDGLEY

New price

Offers in excess of **£200,000**



SEDGLEY, South View Road, Northway

ENLARGED & EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached in favoured district within walking distance of amenities/open fields etc. comprising; hall, store, "fourth bedroom" (with shower room en suite), lounge, separate dining room, extended/upgraded L shape breakfast kitchen with various integrated appliances. Three bedrooms, bathroom, secluded rear garden. EPC: E SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£195,000**



WOLVERHAMPTON, Laburnum Road, Ettingshall Park

Significantly **ENLARGED**, gas centrally heated & double glazed detached comprising; Porch, hall, enlarged fitted cloaks/ shower room, lounge dining room with patio doors, enlarged/ refitted kitchen, three large bedrooms and a further study (occasional fourth bedroom?) bathroom, former garage (is a utility room) lengthy rear garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£189,950**



SEDGLEY, Fir Tree Drive, High Arcal

A much improved and **EXTENDED** semi-detached property situated in the sought after area of Sedgley. As well as having central heating and double glazing this fine family home also boasts porch, living room, kitchen-diner, **FOUR BEDROOMS**, family bathroom, garage, enclosed rear garden and garden with driveway to front. **VIEWING ESSENTIAL**. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£189,950**



COSELEY, Beechfield Grove

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Located on the sought after Bramford estate and within walking distance of local schools, shops etc. Though it does require some level of modernisation, it does benefit from gas central heating & double glazing this semi-detached family home also comprises; porch, hallway, living room, **EXTENDED** dining room, **EXTENDED KITCHEN**, **THREE BEDROOMS**, bathroom, garage, enclosed rear garden with drive and shared access with garden to front.EPC:TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£169,950**



COSELEY, Salcombe Grove

Significantly modernised, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached conveniently situated for many day-to-day amenities & comprising; porch, enlarged 16'9" lounge, dining room. **CONSERVATORY**, kitchen with a fine range of 'high gloss white' finish units. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Block paved foregarden, **SUBSTANTIAL CONTRACTORS GARAGE** (with pit & shutter door), garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£160,000**



LOWER GORNAL, Ellowes Road

STUNNING QUALITY! Absolutely 'transformed' **ENLARGED** gas centrally heated, recently double glazed semi detached - arguably the finest available for sale comprising; hallway, lounge (with log boiler), kitchen, store, dining room (with French doors out to garden), inner lobby, cloakroom, family/utility room (French doors to garden). Three bedrooms (one with first quality fitted units), bathroom. Landscaped rear garden & 9'3" width side driveway (offering potential). EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£160,000**



UPPER GORNAL, Stable Court

Tremendously enhanced, double glazed, gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) and 'starter home' with rare advantage of large brick **GARAGE** situated in short cul-de-sac within walking distance of amenities comprising; lounge, refitted breakfast kitchen. Two bedrooms (principal bedroom with fitted units & an over stair cupboard), bathroom, garden with patio and **BRICK GARAGE** with extensive additional parking. EPC:C SEDGLEY

New price WAS **£153,000**, NOW **£149,950**



Wombourne, Jenks Road

A **LARGE TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED HOUSE** IN NEED OF MODERNISATION, with **BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY** and a **LARGE REAR GARDEN**, well placed within sought after Wombourne village, providing much potential to improve the **WELL PROPORTIONED LAYOUT**, which includes **THREE GOOD BEDROOMS**. EPC TBA

No upward chain

£140,000



KINGSWINFORM, Laburnum Road

Enjoying a secluded position and forming part of a small modern development, this **MOST DECEPTIVE MODERN MID-MEWS** enjoys a well laid out sunny and private rear garden with **GARAGE** and **DRIVEWAY**, all enhancing the **WELL PRESENTED** layout which includes **CONSERVATORY** and **TWO GOOD BEDROOMS** EPC C

No upward chain

£139,950



DUDLEY, Pebworth Grove

A UPVC double glazed **THREE BEDROOM** semi detached excellently situated in a 'backwater' within reasonable distance of so many day-to-day amenities, Dudley Town Centre, shops, schools etc. External elevations are of brick with UPVC double glazed casements surmounted by a pitched tiled roof having a tarmacadam/slabbed foregarden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY.

New price

WAS **£139,950**, NOW **£137,950**



DUDLEY, Ripley Grove

NO UPWARD CHAIN - Within walking distance of many day-to-day amenities, a modern, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed property in exemplary order throughout set in cul-de-sac & comprising; hall, fitted cloaks, well equipped kitchen with a fine range of high gloss cream finish units & many integrated appliances, living/ dining room (with French doors out to the garden), store. Two double bedrooms, shower room (potential bathroom), garden, allocated parking. EPC: C. SEDGLEY.

New price

PRICE: £136,500



DUDLEY, Marigold Crescent

EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS gas centrally heated double glazed **FOUR BEDROOM** semi detached family home that has been conscientiously maintained over the years with **NO UPWARD CHAIN** comprising; porch, hall, separate toilet, 15ft lounge, dining room, 18'8" kitchen with a further freezer/utility room off. Four generous bedrooms, former bathroom (now a shower/wet room), south facing slabbed fenced rear garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£135,000**

Really quick sale expected for this executive ideal family home

HARBORNE
£274,950 >>>

Expected to sell fast, this executive four-bedroomed David Wilson terraced residence in Carisbrooke Road in Harborne, offers the right postcode, space and sublime style.

It is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at offers over £274,950.

It has an entrance hallway with stairs onto the first floor and access to the garage. A study can be used as your fourth bedroom with patio doors to the garden, a utility room/ground floor kitchen and a cloakroom/WC.

To the first floor are two rooms including an open spaced reception room used as a lounge and a kitchen with a dining area/second reception.

The three excellent bedrooms and the bathroom are positioned on the second floor.

Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.



Luxury modern four-bedroomed detached home

WEST BROMWICH
£299,950

A stunning luxury modern four-bedroomed detached property in Bassett Close, West Bromwich, is expected to be quickly snapped up.

In a prime location, ideal for commuting, it is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at £299,950.

Being local to Birmingham and West Bromwich city centre, it has easy access to motorways, and features its own unique style.

"This prestigious family home is exactly what a family owner will want - space, new build, location, and in a brilliant estate," said a spokesman for loveyourpostcode.com

At the front of the property there is a good-sized driveway as well as a secure garage. On entering, you step into the entrance hallway, which, on the left, leads to a superb L-shaped living room with an abundance of natural light. The dining part of the living room provides access to the very spacious kitchen.



The property has an immaculate and spacious kitchen/diner that has been finished to a spectacular specification. The kitchen also leads to a separate utility room which provides access to the garden.

This home is decorated in neutral colours providing a beautiful and relaxed theme throughout.

The master bedroom has two windows. There is also a desirable en-suite leading off. The second, third and fourth bedrooms all have large windows and can comfortably accommodate double beds. All rooms have light paintwork throughout that is complemented with natural lighting. The large family bathroom is exquisitely finished and has both a separate shower as well as a bath tub.

Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.



Semi-detached property in need of refurbishment is on the market

WEDNESBURY
£132,500 <<<

Calling all investors! This three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Kent Road, Wednesbury, is in need of refurbishment.

Located a short distance away from local schools, amenities and travel links, it is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £132,500 with no chain.

The accommodation briefly comprises of lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, a WC, and a front and rear garden.

To the front is a grass lawn and a pathway leading to the front door and into the entrance hallway, which has stairs to the first floor.

The lounge has a double glazed window to the front, a radiator, and a gas fire.

For further details on this ideal property, or to arrange that all important viewing call Skitts Estate Agents on 0121 520 2255.



SDL AUCTIONS

BIGWOOD

For sale by auction on Wednesday 24th October at Aston Villa Football Ground. Commencing at 10.30am

145 New John Street, Halesowen



A Vacant
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Property

Guide Price* : £14,000 - £19,000 (plus fees)

27 Park Lane, Halesowen



A Vacant
Freehold
Detached
Property

Guide Price* : in excess of £40,000 (plus fees)

87 Long Lane, Halesowen



A Vacant
Freehold
Mid Terraced
Property

Guide Price* : £19,000 - £24,000 (plus fees)

25 Parkway Road, Dudley



A Vacant
Freehold
Mid Terraced
Property

Guide Price* : £68,000 - £73,000 (plus fees)

59 Corser Street, Dudley



A Vacant
Freehold
End Terraced
Property

Guide Price* : in excess of £30,000 (plus fees)

13 Littleworth Avenue, Coseley, Dudley



A Vacant
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8 Powis Avenue, Tipton



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Detached
Property

Guide Price* : in excess of £35,000 (plus fees)

95 Horseley Road, Tipton



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Freehold
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Property

Guide Price* : in excess of £150,000 (plus fees)

103 Oval Road, Tipton



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Freehold Semi
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Property

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Combo Life is a real combination car

By Ian Donaldson

The motoring world might have declared diesel the work of the devil but Vauxhall still has faith in the fuel, and for an intriguing reason.

Not because a good modern diesel can't be clean enough in the emissions stakes to satisfy the most stringent of naysayers – it can – but because of where the latest Vauxhall will go when it's three years old.

For a majority of new Vauxhall Camb Lives will be sold to the Motability market, where disabled people can use their mobility allowance to fund a car, with the Combo now added to their list of likely candidates.

No wonder, the car is spacious enough for all their bits and pieces and can be had in two lengths and with two or three rows of seats. That offers up the possibility of a Combo Life with room for five people in two rows and a massive amount of stowage space in the rear.

So, a Motability user enjoys a Combo Life for three years and the time comes for it to be replaced. Who might fancy a nicely cared for car with space galore for passengers and their luggage – at sensible money?

Yes, you've guessed; the owner of a small taxi company. The sort you see parked outside the station waiting for the London train to arrive in the evening.

All of which means the Combo Life is, frankly, not up there with the likes of an Audi estate, or even one with a Ford badge, in the desirability stakes. But that's not why you're going to put a Combo Life on the shortlist.

There have been enough rational car choosers dotted around Europe to keep Citroen and Peugeot busily turning out 'vans with windows' for decades. Now that Vauxhall is owned by the same PSA Group that



There are sliding rear doors

controls both those French marques you can see why the Combo Life has appeared on the sensible motoring scene.

It shares rather a lot with, for instance, the new Peugeot Rifter and Citroen Berlingo Multispace, with just enough built-in differences to make it viable as a stand alone car, from the way it looks inside and out to differences in equipment and trim.

Available in two trim levels, Design and Energy, the Combo Life has the option of 1.2 litre petrol engine with 100hp or a couple of 1.5 litre diesels with 100 and 130hp and you can have the latter with an automatic gearbox.

The petrol Combo Life claims official economy of 51.4mpg and 125g/km of CO2 emissions against the 111/113 g/km and 67.3/65.7mpg of the two diesels.

The shorter version of the Combo Life measures 4.4m and there's a longer 4.75m version with sliding rear doors on both of them. The five-seat standard length Combo Life has 597 litres of luggage space with the rear seats in place; choose the longer model



This is a car that will comfortably swallow the family and their luggage, with space to spare

and there's 850 litres of space with the second row of seats in place or a genuinely van-like 2,693 litres with them folded flat.

Need more space still? Find it in the 28 storage cubbies dotted around the interior. An interior, you will soon discover that provides properly car like levels of equipment but with a feel more practical plastic than plush.

Long gone are the days when this sort of practicality meant van-like levels of fixtures and fittings. Choose the right version of Combo Life and you can have a heated

steering wheel, rear view camera, driver drowsiness alert, head-up display and IntelliGrip which helps the front wheels keep the car moving on ultra slippery surfaces.

Prices range from £19,160 for the entry level Design 1.2 litre petrol model to £22,660 for the Energy seven-seater with 130hp diesel engine and complete with cruise control, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto and air conditioning.

Fire up the stronger of the two diesels and you discover a car that knows its role in life

is to provide a comfortable and economical way of moving driver and passengers about without pretending there's a hidden sports car under that practical bodywork. Which translates into a comfortable ride and decent performance, with 115mph and 10.6 seconds to 62mph for those Lewis Hamilton moments.

A varied test route of town and country roads showed 56.4mpg on the trip computer, which will do nicely, thank you. And all done in a car that will comfortably swallow the family and their luggage, with space to spare.



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1666 NEW ASTRA SRI NAV 1.6CDTI 136PS 5DR LAVA RED 15,000 MILES	£12,995	£12,395	£600				
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VAUXHALL

Popular Vitara gets refresh including new engine line-up

By Sharon Walters

Having enjoyed a number of journeys in the Suzuki Vitara over the years, and earlier this year, the car is now even better with an update for the 2019 model.

The Vitara is the firm's most popular model in the UK, and has been refreshed with the new version of the car featuring a modified appearance, new engine line-up and more equipment as standard.

Suzuki claims that the current generation of the SUV has been a huge success for the Japanese manufacturer since its launch in 2015, and it's hoping the update will keep the momentum going.

Among the changes is a new engine line-up. The current 1.6-litre naturally-aspirated petrol unit will be replaced by two new engines — 1.0-litre and 1.4-litre options, both turbocharged.

The former is available on entry-level SZ4 and SZ-T trims and delivers 109bhp, sent to the front wheels via a six-speed manual gearbox.

Optionally, SZ-T variants can have Suzuki's Allgrip four-wheel-drive system. As for range-topping SZ5 models, those will boast the 138bhp, 1.4-litre unit.

Suzuki says the new Vitara is the most technologically advanced car it has made to date, with SZ5 models gaining lane-departure warning, traffic sign recognition and blind spot monitoring for no extra cost.



The instrument cluster has a new design

In more detail the Vitara is available with both 1.0-litre and 1.4-litre Boosterjet turbo charged petrol engines as introduced in the S-Cross model range late last year and these replace the 1.6-litre petrol engine. The highly acclaimed Boosterjet engines provide more power and torque, greater efficiency and offer lower emissions too. SZ4 and SZ-T grades are equipped with the 1.0-litre 111PS Boosterjet engine and ALLGRIP four wheel drive is available optionally on the SZ-T with manual transmission.

SZ5 models are equipped with the 1.4-litre Boosterjet engine which offers a power output of 140PS and 220Nm of torque is available from just 1,500rpm through to 4,000rpm. WLTP fuel consumption and CO2 emission figures for both engines will be available closer to the launch date.

For the exterior, new design alloy wheels are available, a redesigned front grille and lower bumper is utilised and the rear of the car features new design and distinctive LED combination lamps.

For the interior, the upper instrument panel now incorporates a soft touch material for added quality and the instrument cluster has a new design with colour central information display.

The 2019 Vitara is the most technically advanced Suzuki to date and new safety technology available as standard equipment on the SZ5 model will include Dual Sensor Brake Support, Lane Departure Warning and Prevention, Traffic Sign recognition, Blind Spot Monitor and Rear cross traffic alert.



A redesigned front grille and lower bumper is utilised

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The First Edition Peugeot 508 SW

Stylish First Edition for 508 SW range

Peugeot chose its home turf, the Paris Motor Show, to reveal the 508 SW First Edition. This introductory model kicks off sales of the new estate car across Europe.

The First Edition is based on the range-topping GT trim, but adds unique styling touches and interior equipment.

Available in two colours – Twilight Blue and Amazonite Grey – the First Edition also adds several exterior styling upgrades, including a gloss black grille surround and 19-inch diamond-cut alloy wheels with a two-tone finish.

The interior has black headlining, blue mood lighting, aluminium detailing on the pedals and door sills plus a Zebrano wood finish for the boot floor, reminiscent of that in the Mercedes CLS Shooting Brake.

There's carbon effect trim for the dashboard and soft Nappa leather upholstery, available in either black or red.

As befits a range-topping trim, the 508 SW First Edition is available exclusively with the two most powerful engines from the range. One petrol and one diesel engine are offered, with power outputs of 222bhp and 178bhp respectively.

Elsewhere, there's all the tech you'll find on the GT model, including several innovations not seen on a Peugeot model before. In addition to the 10-inch infotainment display, there's inductive smartphone charging, a high-end FOCAL sound system and night vision tech.

Peugeot has not announced pricing for the 508 SW First Edition, but expect a modest increase over the £37,014 starting price for the equivalent hatchback model.

Potent new Audi SQ2 is launched in Paris



Hot, hot, hot – the new S model

Audi revealed its latest high-performance 'S' model at the Paris Motor Show – the SQ2 compact SUV.

Based on the stylish Q2, the SQ2 packs a 2.0-litre, four-cylinder turbocharged petrol engine under its bonnet. Shared with the Volkswagen Golf R, the engine produces an impressive 296bhp and 400Nm of torque – capable of pushing the little SQ2 from 0-60mph in just 4.6 seconds and on to an electronically limited top speed of 155mph. It's mated to a seven-speed S tronic double-clutch gearbox and quattro all-wheel drive.

The SQ2's tweaks are not just limited to the engine, though. It also benefits from upgrades brakes on all four corners. Suspension has been lowered by 20mm and there's new torque vectoring, capable of straightening the car's handling by braking individual wheels.

There are some visual tweaks too besides the lowered suspension. Though the overall effect is very similar to the existing Q2 S Line, there's a new eight-bar grille and sportier front and rear splitters.

A range of 18- and 19-inch alloy wheels feature alongside 10 choices of exterior paint finish, and all cars gain LED lights front and rear.

Inside, it's the usual sporty touches of standard-fit sports seats, black and brushed aluminium trim and metal pedals and door sills. Audi's excellent Virtual Cockpit doesn't come as standard, though, with the 12.3-inch digital dial pack relegated to the optional Technology Pack.

Audi has not yet revealed pricing, but expect basic SQ2s to start from around £35,000.

Lexus announces prices and model range for new UX SUV

By Sharon Walters

Lexus has announced pricing and the model range for its new UX 250h compact SUV crossover in the UK.

The all-new model will be launched in March next year in a line-up that adopts Lexus's new, focused, three-grade structure. The choice will comprise UX, F Sport and Takumi models, with a complementary range of option packs designed to give customers the freedom to enhance their vehicle's technology, audio, performance, safety and luxury specifications.

On-the-road prices will start at £29,900 for the UX, with the F Sport at £33,900 and the top-of-the-range Takumi at £39,100.

Both front and all-wheel drive versions of the UX 250h will be available, the latter equipped with Lexus's compact, lightweight and fuel-efficient E-Four system which provides electric motor drive to the rear axle, automatically providing extra grip in slippery conditions. All-wheel drive will be an option on the Takumi and on UX and F Sport models in combination with the Premium Plus or Takumi Pack.

Striking

The introduction of the UX 250h marks Lexus's entry into the growing premium compact SUV crossover segment with a car that is rich in striking design, advanced technology features and luxurious quality. As the first model to be built on the Lexus Global Architecture – C platform, it also delivers strong dynamic performance and driver rewards, with a low centre of gravity, highly rigid body and suspension tuned for the ideal balance of responsiveness, stability and ride comfort.

In the UK the new UX 250h will be offered exclusively with a self-charging 2.0-litre hybrid powertrain. The fourth generation of Lexus's premium market-leading hybrid technology features a new, high-efficiency four-cylinder petrol engine that has been specifically engineered for the UX to secure excellent fuel economy, low emissions and a characteristically smooth, quiet and refined drive, coupled with the dynamic performance rewards of the new GA-C platform.

The UX grade will feature the second generation Lexus Safety System+, a new Lexus Navigation system, dual-zone air conditioning and 17-inch alloys.

Key features for the F Sport include F Sport interior and exterior styling features, including F Sport 18-inch alloy wheels and front spindle grille, plus F Sport front seats with fabric and Tahara upholstery, pedals and steering



The introduction of the UX 250h marks Lexus's entry into the growing premium compact SUV crossover segment

wheel in the cabin. The specification also includes rear privacy glass, heated, power-adjustable front seats and a heated steering wheel.

The Takumi, named in celebration of Lexus's skilled takumi craftsmen, offers smooth leather upholstery, integrated front seat ventilation, a bespoke Mark Levinson 13-speaker Premium Surround Sound system, 10-inch multimedia display, 360-degree camera, driver's head-up display, sunroof, Blind Spot Monitor and Rear Cross Traffic Alert with braking function.

At launch, five option packs will be available. The Premium Pack (UX and F Sport) provides 18-inch alloy wheels, front and rear parking sensors, rear privacy glass, integrated heating in the front seats and steering wheel and an auto-dimming rear-view mirror.

Taking luxury specification to an even higher level, the Premium Plus Pack (UX and F Sport) adds smooth leather upholstery, cabin trim finish inspired by the textured grain of traditional Japanese washi paper screens, smart entry, power tailgate and illuminated entry system. When selected for the F Sport, the pack further provides a 10-

inch multimedia display and power-adjustable steering wheel.

The Tech & Safety Pack (UX and F Sport) equips the car with a Blind Spot Monitor, Rear Cross Traffic with Auto Brake, triple-eye LED headlights with Advanced Headlamp System, a driver's head-up display and a wireless charging tray for smartphones. When applied to the F Sport model, it further provides Lexus' latest generation Adaptive Variable Suspension system, which debuted on the LC flagship coupe. This provides automatic, independent, damping force at each wheel in response to driver inputs and road conditions, adjusting through 650 predefined levels for seamless performance.

The UX model is available with a Tech & Sound Pack that equips the vehicle with the Mark Levinson audio system, head-up display, wireless charger and power-adjustable front seats and steering wheel.

For the F Sport, the Takumi Pack upgrade includes all the content of the Premium Plus and Tech & Safety Packs, together with front seat ventilation, the Mark Levinson audio system, a sunroof and 360-degree camera.

Find best instructor with new app

Youmi, the new app designed to revolutionise the way learner drivers find instructors, has been launched in Wolverhampton by local 25-year-old technology enthusiast Banwo Idowu, based in the West Midlands.

In the UK two out of every five learner drivers experience a minimum of two driving instructors before finding an instructor they are compatible with, which costs UK learners approximately £33m for ineffective lessons that slow down their learning experience. The issue is caused by the inability for learners to effectively scan the instructor marketplace and find the best instructor for their needs.

Youmi has been built with the ambition of correcting the marketplace problem by giving learners the ability to access and compare hundreds of local driving instructors and select them based on star-ratings left by other learners - a feature that has never been available before.

The new service is free for learners to access and use, and instructors pay £9.99 per month to be featured, and keep everything they earn, with no commissions or high charges that traditional driving schools demand. Youmi creates an efficient and modern way to plug driving

instructors directly into their target market, and gives learners a quick and easy way to choose a driving instructor.

Banwo Idowu, Founder and CEO of Youmi shares his start-up story: "Just like thousands of other 17-year olds, I was raring to get behind the wheel of the car from the day I turned 17, but the excitement was quickly replaced by frustration. I went through lots of incompatible driving instructors, and I felt like I was going nowhere fast. It was during this time that I came up with the idea of Youmi – somewhere learner drivers can read reviews and easily compare local instructors in one place – but mainly a place where they have the ability to decide who teaches them to drive."

Mike Spooner, head of Approved Driving Instructor (ADI) Engagement at Youmi comments on the industry issues: "The biggest problem that driving instructors face – even the best ones – is generating awareness amongst prospective learner drivers. Most good instructors rely on word of mouth, but it's not a guaranteed source of new learners all year round so we are always looking for ways to raise awareness.

"By introducing a star-rating to the



Banwo Idowu developed the app after his own experiences

industry for the first time, Youmi will enable the best driving instructors to benefit from increased awareness, and should encourage more instructors to deliver a better experience every time, as they are only as good as their last review. The app is a real game changer, and one that all instructors are going to benefit from using."

To help ease the financial burden on young people, Youmi features a refer-a-friend scheme whereby learners share their Youmi code with other learners to earn points and get discounts off their lessons. Youmi is available to download now via the App Store and Google Play for learners. Approved Driving Instructors should register at www.youmidrive.co.uk

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Animals**

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can follow to ensure that you
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Puppy Farmer:

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puppy whilst it is still with it's
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given
any KC documentation, if
pedigree.
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Association publications take
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liability should readers
purchase from this kind of
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with great amenities.

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petrol, Feb 2007, 56 reg,
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1200cc, red in colour, 65,000
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MoT September 2019, very
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£1875.
07988 084458.

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BARGAIN

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9 Local Information

Public Notices

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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of New Bradley Hall Care Home Compton Drive Kingswinford West Midlands DY9 9NS, who died on 04/08/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 14/12/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice. **GUARDIAN WILLIS LTD**
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Public Notices

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10 Personals

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Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

MARILYN blue eyed curvy female, 52, loves music, good wine, romantic strolls, cosy nights in, WLTm like-minded romantic for quality times. Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432347**

SUSIE, married, adventurous/dominant lady, 38yrs, seeks discreet man any age/area for no strings fun. Lives in North West. **Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 431239**

CHRISTINE 48yrs, petite blue eyed brunette, attractive, many varied interests, looking for honest, caring, N/S romantic guy with GSOH to make my life complete again. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432301**

ANNA, 53yrs, attractive blonde lady, with lovely curves. Seeking man any age for no strings discreet fun. South West but currently working in Liverpool. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box: 429721**

ATTRACTION blonde lady, from Aberdeen but willing to travel. 52yrs loves walking, socialising, dining out etc. Hoping to meet a kind gentleman for life's pleasures. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432073**

AMANDA, 36yrs, attractive lady. Solvent and well educated and spoken. Feminine figure with large breasts. Hoping to meet a broad-minded gent, any age for discreet relationship. I don't mind if you are married or single, Midlands but can travel. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box: 429287**

CHRISTINE 48yrs, petite blue eyed brunette, attractive, many varied interests, looking for honest, caring, N/S romantic guy with GSOH to make my life complete again. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432301**

JACKIE, 65, would love to meet a genuine guy, 60-70 yrs, N/S, for days out and more. I'm youthful and have a GSOH. Looking for someone similar. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6449995**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, sophisticated professional lady, bored with chaps from work, hoping to meet a burly workman! Come on lets have some discreet times. Txt me. **Text Only. Box: 4164576**

JULIE, widow, petite attractive big blue eyed brunette, loves cooking a cozy meal in, nights out, searching for real love with genuinely nice guy. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432449**

PHILIPINA, Asian lady, 32yrs. Respectful, kind with boyish figure. WLTm mature strong minded man. Looks unimportant but must be manly. **Text only. Box: 4161491**

JANET, 49yrs, tall brunette, slim size 12, enjoys life, no hang-ups, wanting quality time, friendship and possible romance with similar guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432423**

MEGHAN, married, bored, looking for some excitement. 186cm 48yrs, attractive with a curvy figure, blonde hair and well dressed. Hoping to meet chap of any age for discreet meetings. **Text only. Box: 4132478**

DEBBIE 44yrs, petite attractive auburn haired, good listener, romantic, enjoys socialising, seeks cosy nights in with Mr Right. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432411**

JANETTE, black lady, 52yrs, kind, romantic with very good sense of humour/fun. Hoping to meet a kind white man for romance, fun and passionate times. **Text Only. Box: 4086142**

LUCY, 49yrs, just looking to enjoy life, can you help? seeks fun and good times in or out, nothing-heavy just fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432297**

PAM, 40yrs, cuddly, attractive, self sufficient, employed, looking for similar sincere male for hopefully LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432165**

JENNY single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432153**

HEATHER 47, larger than life, cuddly built lady, scrubs up pretty well, employed, OHAC, GSOH, looking for good times with willing male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432127**

JULIE, 47, blonde hair, brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, seeks male 45-60 for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431053**

TINA, 44, fun loving single mum who enjoys most things in life, seeking happy guy with GSOH for meals in, dates out, possible romance and adult companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431845**

SUE, 50, slim feminine brunette, caring, fun loving independent, no ties, OHAC, loves cooking, WLTm male to get to know and spend quality times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432033**

JANET 42yrs, looking for handsome prince to spoil me in return for lots of good fun and well deserved uncomplicated attention. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432011**

CHRISSEY 39 blonde, blue eyes, likes meals/days out, loves life and looking for someone new to share fun loving easygoing relationship, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431971**

JAYNE, 42yrs, very pretty brunette, fun, loves the 60s, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431893**

ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks no strings casual fun. I have my own house, car and am solvent. I'm busy with a firm figure. You must be open minded, age/status unimportant. South East but travels countryside with work. **Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box: 427633**

KIM, 40, attractive single lady new to area, looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432257**

HARRIETT 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long legs and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone in the North East and can accommodate but can also travel. Give me a try. **Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205**

ATTRACTION countryside loving lady from the South East but willing to travel, young looking 50s seeks male of any age for fun, possible relationship. I'm attractive and good fun to be around. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432075**

HELEN, sophisticated cultured lady, seeks mature man for life's pleasures. Lives in London but can travel. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 430171**

FIRST timer! Annette, 50s, passionate, loves cooking, life in general, rock music, WLTm mature male for friendship, togetherness, TLC, hopefully LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431707**

PAM, 40yrs, cuddly, attractive, self sufficient, employed, looking for similar sincere male for hopefully LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432165**



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BIANNA, petite female, 48, attractive, nice natured, sociable, many likes and interests, seeking independent male to share new interests, hobbies and lots of adult time. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431841**

JEANETTE 35, blonde blue eyed attractive active nurse who really cares about people, WLTm someone genuine and honest to fall in love with. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431703**

JAYNE, 42yrs, very pretty brunette, stylish, fun, loves the 60s, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431893**

LORNA 50s, slim female, 5ft 5ins, many interests, loves music, seeking romantic male to enjoy special times together, hopefully leading to true love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431889**

TINA, 44, fun loving single mum who enjoys most things in life, seeking happy guy with GSOH for meals in, dates out, possible romance and adult companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431845**

BUSINESS man, 54, 6ft, attractive, slim, seeks slim female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432507**

LEICESTER male, 59, slim, lonely and unloved seeks lady for rendezvous. I give lots of kisses and cuddles. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6446017**

MARK, 48, 5ft8, keeps in shape, plays football, looking for a friend with benefits! relationship. Discretion needed and assured. Married or single female welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432477**

FIT black guy, 72, broadminded, caring, genuine, easy going, GSOH, seeks warm, genuine, non smoker English Rose, 60-69. **ACA. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432245**

44YR old male, 6ft, grey, OHAC, likes nights in/out, cinema, reading, walking, travel, seeks female of similar age and interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 217520**

CHRISTOPHER, 48yrs, single dad. Professional, own home, hard working & kind. Just missing that special lady in my life. You must be genuine & looking for LTR/romance. **Text Only: Box: 4066804**

SPIKE, 55, seeks lady for fun times, maybe more, if you can handle a farm boy lol. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6461051**

SINGLE, white male, 50, slim and athletic, various interests, WLTm female, 50-60, for some no strings attached fun and dates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432383**

PHIL, 61, 5ft10, slim, OHOC, looking for a nice, fun lady, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431311**

GENT 71, looks younger, N/S, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, semi-retired. Likes sport, music, dining out, travel. Seeks lady for relationship. Age immaterial. All replies answered. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6445419**

FUN loving Irish man, seeks relationship, for fun times and going out. Please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428077**

ATTRACTION, fun loving, professional male, 43, enjoys going out and staying in, WLTm N/S female for good times. Chester/Mersey area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432241**

WELL groomed, business type gent, 70 years+, semi retired with a GSOH, very easy going, also with a caring nature, likes walking, gardening and dancing. WLTm a lady with similar interests, looks or age do not matter. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432445**

MALE, 69, widowed, 5ft6, GSOH, likes the outdoors, countryside, motor sports, meals out, WLTm somebody with a GSOH, who enjoys socialising, meals out and the countryside. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432433**

ATTRACTION, fun loving, professional male, 43, enjoys going out and staying in, WLTm N/S female for good times. Chester/Mersey area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432461**

ALAN from Cheshire, warm loving gent in his 70s. I enjoy gardening, the countryside, also I enjoy dancing and I am an outdoor person who walks a lot, seeking LTR with a cuddly lady of any age or looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432399**

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MALE, 60, seeks black male, 25-80, for sincere friendship, outings, and cinema. Any area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431827**

BLACK guy, 46, 5ft9, slim, genuine guy, looking for a one to one. I like dance, DIY, techno, 80s, 90s and old school. Looking for a white guy, 20-70. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431563**

JAY, bi-sexual male, looking for younger, gay or bi-sexual males for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432455**

COLIN, shy gay chap, 29yrs, hoping to meet much older gay gent for romance, mutual caring times. **Text Only. Box: 4153436**

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Tickets on sale as Brum hosts SPOTY

TICKETS go on sale tomorrow (Friday) for the Sports Personality of the Year, being held at the Genting Arena, Birmingham. Now in its 65th year, a host of changes have been made to the 2018 awards.

For the first time, the nominated contenders will be announced on the night of the show and with fewer names in the running.

The Greatest Sporting Moment of the Year is new, with the public choosing from a shortlist drawn up by an independent panel of the standout moments of the past 12 months. An award to honour a Young Sports Personality will be presented at the BBC Radio 1 Teen Awards on October 21.

Nominations are also open for the BBC Get Inspired Unsung Hero award to honour the most dynamic, forward thinking and driven volunteers from across the UK. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/get-inspired/27037119>

Tickets go on sale at 9am, priced at £45 plus admin fee. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult, minimum age 10 years. Buy online at www.theticketfactory.com or by phone on 0844 33 88 222.

Cage Warriors makes return to second city

ADAM 'The Love Doctor' Proctor will meet Angelo Rubino this month as Cage Warriors returns to Birmingham for the first time in eight years.

The October 20 bill at the Genting Arena will boast a welterweight title fight between Stefano Paternò, defending his belt against Ross Houston and a four-man featherweight title tournament featuring Dean Trueman, Lewis Monarch, Aiden Lee and Paul McBain.

With nine wins and just one defeat since his pro debut in 2014, 'The Love Doctor' is carrying a four-fight winning streak into his clash against the Italian welterweight Angelo Rubino.

The CW98 light-heavyweight main event will be between Yannick Bahati and Alan Carlos. Bahati is a local name who has finished seven opponents by either knockout or submission, and has called for the city's growing MMA fan base to get behind him. Carlos comes into the fight with superior experience and travels from Sweden looking to upset the home fans, having picked up big wins across Europe for over a decade since his debut in 2007.

Top darts players on Premier League oche

THE Unibet Premier League will return to Arena Birmingham next year as the sport's top stars continue their battle for the prestigious title.

The ten-player tournament features league nights across the UK, Ireland, Netherlands and Germany in 2019 during a four-month tour.

The success of previous visits to Arena Birmingham will see next year's tournament return to the Midlands on April 25 for the 13th night of the season.

Four matches on the night are set to see the likes of world number one Michael van Gerwen and current world champion Rob Cross doing battle on the oche. The full field of players will be confirmed in January, with the top four players on the PDC Order of Merit qualifying by right and joined by six invited players.

Tickets are on general sale via www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222. They are priced at £27.00/£46.50/£53.00 (includes admin fees and £1.20 facility fee) + £2.55 fulfilment fee per order.



Beth Cobden in action during the match against Australia



Beth Cobden and Jade Clarke celebrate with their gold medals

Netball bounces back as a popular game

SPORTING FEATURE

By Heather Large

The benefit netball has over, say, hitting the treadmill for an hour a week, is that it's a team sport – you're much more likely to stick to your exercise plan when other people are relying on you

cause netball is actually the secret underdog of fitness, with tonnes of mental and physical benefits. There are many reasons why it might be time to give your short-lived career in goal attack another shot.

Firstly it's an excellent cardio workout because of all that squatting, jumping and pivoting harder than Ross from Friends in the infamous sofa episode.

All netball positions require players to sprint around the 30-metre court to attack or defend, execute set plays, take throw-ins and generally keep the ball moving from end to end.

A good game will involve gut-whittling bursts of sprinting, core strengthening twists and turns, smarting the opponent with high-intensity decoy runs and furious chest-to-chest passing. As well as being great for full-body toning, it's an explosive cardiovascular workout for your heart.

It's also good for hand-eye co-ordination because once you're in possession of the ball, you're glued to the ground until you can pass it on to someone else. There are a few creative passes that each player can utilise to bamboo-

zle the other team: a high pass shoots it over the opposing team's heads, a chest pass throws it directly while a bounce pass allows a single bounce on the ground.

Games involve plenty of throwing and catching in quick succession, so players must have slick ball skills and flawless co-ordination to get the ball to an area where their team can shoot and score.

But the benefit netball has over, say, hitting the treadmill for an hour a week, is that it's a team sport – which means you're much more likely to stick to your exercise plan when other people are relying on you to show up and play.

As well as the increased motivation to get moving, netball has a friendly competition element that makes an hour of game play fly by so much faster than a solo session at the gym.

Research has found that getting outdoors, even in the UK's constant drizzle, can work wonders for your mental health.

Basics

Finally, unlike basketball or rugby, netball is a non-contact sport, which means you won't get bulldozed to the ground when the ball gets thrown your way. If you're worried about injury, netball is a great way to get fit, lose weight and be social without the fear of scrapes, bruises and broken bones.

So if that's tempted you then the best place to start is the England Netball website – englandnetball.co.uk – where you will find details on its Back to Netball scheme, which runs sessions across the country, including in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Shropshire.

These cover the basics of the game including passing, footwork and shooting.

Sessions typically finish with a friendly game to put the skills you've learnt into practice.

But if all else fails, there's nothing to stop you from renting a court and starting up your own casual seven-a-side game. You don't need any special kit – just clothes you feel comfortable in, a few team bibs and a ball.

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FINAL WHISTLE



The Glassboys battle back to beat Harriers

STOURBRIDGE'S Amblecote ground has seen some dramatic FA Cup ties in recent years, but manager Gary Hackett rates the comeback to beat Kidderminster Harriers 3-2 as their biggest achievement.

This is the fourth successive season in which Glassboys have reached at least the fourth qualifying round. But the manner in which his team came back from a two-goal deficit in front of 1,527 to beat a Harriers team that seemed to boss the game well into the second half, won special praise from Hackett.

"I honestly think this is a bigger achievement in the FA Cup than anything that has gone on before," he said. "The character the team showed in coming back from 2-0 down against a very good team was immense."

Harriers, 26 places above Stour in the non-league pyramid, scored on 12 minutes when Ashley Chambers played into the path of Ed Williams' who made no mistake. On 52 minutes substitute Joe Ironside made it 2-0 from the spot after Aaron Hayden pulled back Chambers.

The introduction of Luke Benbow for Stourbridge on 57 minutes was crucial on 62 minutes when he crossed for Kaiman Anderson to score. When Aaron Forde produced a 25-yard shot it was not held by visiting keeper Brandon Hall and Anderson followed up to score his second, the home crowd were rocking, believing that yet another shock result could be on the cards. On 77 minutes Ryan Johnson handled in the box and Forde coolly dispatched the winning penalty.

Roberts twice on target for Yeltz in week's third win

Halesowen Town 2 Rushall Olympic 0 TWO second-half goals from Halesowen's leading striker James Roberts left Rushall without a win in nine games.

By contrast, improving Yeltz celebrated their third win of the week without conceding a goal.

On-loan Tobias Hayles-Docherty made a splendid 17th minute run only for Roberts to just fail to make a proper connection. But the Pics settled to create the better chances in the remainder of the first half. Tyler Lyttle found Richard Brodie in space in the penalty area after 21 minutes but fired into the side-netting. Liam Truslove's 29th minute shot fell just wide and he went even closer when he rattled the base of the pos.

The Yeltz took the lead in the 54th minute when Hayles-Docherty squared the ball for Roberts to plant the it into the bottom corner. Home goalkeeper Cameron Gregory then made a good one-handed save to keep out Daniel Waldron in the 57th minute.

Roberts who was on the mark again to double Halesowen's lead in the 68th minute, latching onto Lee Hughes' cross.

Top quality tennis in club championships



Emily White and Jane Fox with umpire Colin Brown

DESPITE blustery conditions, Wollaston Lawn Tennis Club produced another day of top quality tennis in Sunday's finals day of its 2018 Annual Club Championships.

More than six hours of tennis saw nine adult finals and two junior finals contested at the Prestwood Drive club.

Adam Tranter won his second men's singles overcoming first time finalist Elliot Barnbrook in straight sets. The ladies' singles final was a repeat of last year's final but this time 17-year-old Emily

White won a tight contest against last year's winner Jane Fox on a tie break decider.

The men's doubles was won by Colin Brown and Richard Such who, after losing the last two finals, were able to overcome Chris Brown and Will James in straight sets. The ladies doubles was won again by Hannah Didlock with partner Yvonne Tivey in straight sets against Katy Waterhouse and Bec Yates. The mixed final saw Adam Tranter and Katy Waterhouse beat Adam James and Hannah Didlock by the narrowest margin.

BACKS PUT DK IN FRONT

Hereford 12 DK 17

THE first half saw DK down the Wyese slope, exerting pressure with glimpses of the phase play which was such an important part of the attack last season.

The back three of Sam Vaughan, Nick Adams, and Tommy Walker all countered any attempt to kick long by Hereford.

From a scrumage the DK no8 Pete Griffiths picked up and drove close to the line, the ball was recycled quickly and the backs were let loose the ball was kept alive and some intricate play between the centres Messers, Hancox and Shillingford which saw the looping fly half Connah Jones over in the corner, 5-0 to DK at half time.

For the opening period of the second half DK looked to be in control and extending their lead when a central scrumage to DK was worked to the right and Vaughan up from full back made an incisive break and scored in the corner and he was able to convert his own try.

But DK started to fall foul of the referee's whistle, a penalty in midfield led to a lineout which set up a drive and suddenly a forward broke away and was over, a missed conversion saw the score go to 12-5.

Minutes later DK were behind their posts, it followed two penalties in quick succession which gave Hereford a lineout close to the DK line on the other side but the drive was good enough to make the line and the try and conversion made it 12-12.

Minutes later the balance swung back in favour of DK, when a clearance kick by Hereford was fielded by Vaughan just inside the DK half. He was able to return the ball into the Hereford half and DK forwards were on hand to resource the ball in the tightest of spaces. Adams was able to break the line and sprint to the line for a fine try, which concluded the scoring 17-12 to DK.

Strollers pride of Black Country



Dudley's Hartshill Strollers reached the final of Walking Football's equivalent to FA Cup

THE national trophy dreams of Dudley's Hartshill Strollers have come to an end.

They lost 0-1 to Clevedon in the WFA Over 65s National Cup 2018 - walking football's equivalent of the FA Cup.

The finals were held at Cirencester Arena, Gloucestershire, on September 30.

The super-veterans were hoping to match the achievements of the club's Over 60s team

who won the trophy - at the same venue - in 2016.

In this year's competition, the Over 50s and Over 60s went out in earlier rounds.

Bob Haywood, Hartshill's Over 65s team manager, said: "It was a disappointing ending to a fantastic campaign."

The club plays at Summerhill School, King-swinford.

Masters full performance by Reanne

DUDLEY'S Reanne Evans lifted her first silverware of the 2018/19 World Women's Snooker Tour season with a 4-1 victory against Nutcharut Wongharuthai last weekend.

The 11-time world champion and current world number two came into the tournament on the back of a surprise last 16 exit at last month's UK Women's Championship, but it was to be a different story at De Maxx club in Neerpelt as she dropped just one frame on her way to the masters title.

Following victories against Caty Dehaene and Ho Yee Ki, she avenged her defeat to Rebecca Kenna in Leeds with a dominant 4-0 victory against the world number three in the semi-finals.

For the second time in 2018 it was not long-time rival Ng On Yee who would await her in the final, but instead Thailand's Nutcharut Wongharuthai who once again underlined her credentials as a star of the future.

Following her progress through the group stages she stunned reigning world champion On Yee with a 3-1 success, before adding the scalps of Emma Parker and home favourite and 12-time EBSSA European champion Wendy Jans with a 4-2 semi-final victory.

In a cagey final however it was to be Evans who proved too strong, winning the final three frames from 1-1 to add another ranking title to her already unrivalled CV. Victory also sees Evans significantly close the gap to Ng On Yee at the top of the world rankings.

Harriers in action at Sutton Park

AFTER Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers qualified for the National six stage relays back in September, the men headed back to Sutton Park once again to tackle the course as a team event.

They finished in 60th place with a total time of 02:01:02. Tom Isherwood (20:00), Ben Foster (20:06), Elliot Jones (20:39), Rob Meredith (20:07), Dave Nation (20:21) and Shaun Osborne (19:49).

On Sunday David Ratcliffe took part in the Sheepwalks Shocker and the tough 10k course saw him 14th. Daran Bishop and Mark Judge put in solid performances at the Chester marathon, Daran in 03:14:56 and Mark 03:27:42.

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